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RUC chief singles out Real IRA as the prime suspect



32

Francie Mackey, chairman of the 32-County Sovereignty Committee, and spokeswoman Bernadette Sands-McKevitt

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

POLICE RESPONSE

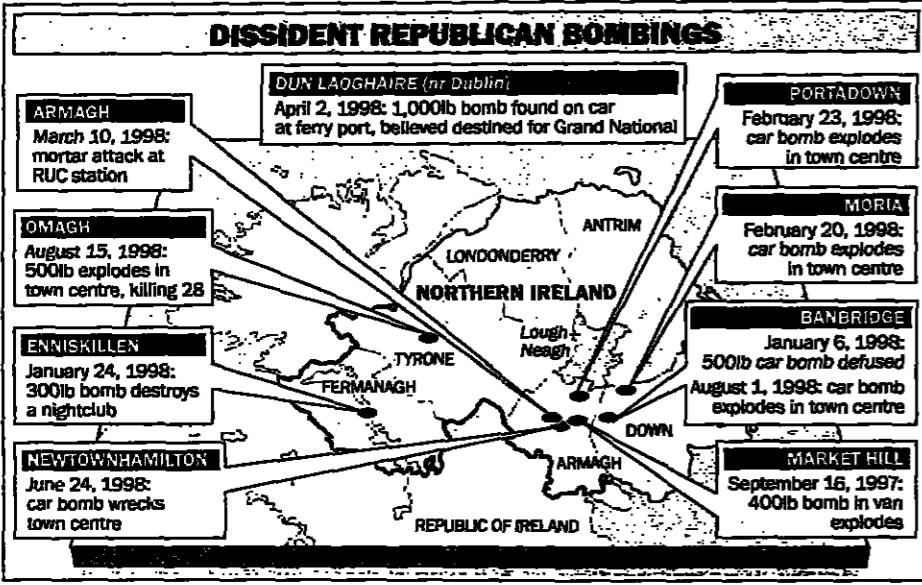
THE Real IRA was identified yesterday as the prime suspect in the Omagh bombing by Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable. He pledged that "no stone will be left unturned" until the group was brought to justice.

It was established last October after a former quartermaster-general of the Provisional IRA challenged Sinn Fein's peace strategy at a secret IRA army convention in Co Donegal. Prominent within the group's political wing, the Dundalk-based 32-County Sovereignty Committee, a legal organisation, are its spokeswoman Bernadette Sands-McKevitt and her boyfriend Michael McKevitt, a 49-year-old businessman. The couple live just south of the border in Dundalk.

Ms Sands-McKevitt, the sister of the former IRA man Bobby Sands, who died on hunger strike in the Maze prison in 1981, attended the launch on Friday of the group's newspaper, *The Sovereign Nation*, with Francie Mackey, an Omagh councillor and group chairman.

Mr Flanagan announced the establishment of a task force led by Eric Anderson, the Deputy Assistant Chief Constable who tracked down the loyalist killers who opened fire on the Greysteel pub near Londonderry in 1993. A spokesman said it would have whatever resources it required. Mr Anderson, 52, said the police had been shocked by the carnage they had seen in Omagh. "You think of your own children," he said. "We're all part of this community and we all feel the suffering."

Politicians clearly expect quick results. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist security spokesman, yesterday named two individuals as responsible for the bombing. Acting alone or in collusion with two other dissident republican groups, the Real IRA has mounted numerous bomb attacks in recent months. Some were intercepted, others exploded in town centres, but they had failed to kill anyone before Saturday.



Michael McKevitt, in the baseball cap, at the funeral of a Real IRA member. He is prominent in its political wing

Security officials said it was possible that the Omagh bombers had bungled their warning and had not intended such carnage. The Real IRA's previous bombs were accompanied by clear and accurate warnings. If the caller and the bombers were different people, the message could have become garbled.

However, Mr Flanagan and other police sources were adamant that the warning was deliberately misleading and that the bombers intended to kill as many as possible by driving them towards the bomb. "These people have made it clear they are out to make an impact and they are getting more and more desperate," one said. "You can't really make that much of a mistake, saying it was outside the courthouse when it was hundreds of yards away."

When the former quartermaster left the Provisional IRA last October he took with him key members of the so-called engineering department — the bomb and mortar-makers — and a detailed knowledge of where all its arms and explosives were hidden. One security source described the former quartermaster yesterday as a "ruthless, uncompromising bastard" who was "prepared to do anything — and I mean anything".

The Real IRA has attracted a steady stream of disgruntled republicans, mostly from the South, and is now believed to have roughly 100 active members, including the man who masterminded the Brighton bomb of 1984. It has acquired Semtex, previously used only by the Provisional IRA, has reportedly sought aid from Libya and has forged a loose alliance with the Continuity IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army.

Adams's moment of truth

Leaders are being urged to turn on old allies, reports Martin Fletcher

GERRY ADAMS and the republican leadership faced growing pressure yesterday to rescue Northern Ireland's peace process by helping the security forces to track down those who bombed Omagh. Politicians and security officials said that Sinn Fein and the Provisional IRA knew exactly who those in the Real IRA were, as most had defected from their ranks. They urged Mr Adams and his colleagues to follow through on their unprecedented and unequivocal condemnation of Saturday's bomb by aiding the hunt for the culprits.

SINN FEIN'S DILEMMA

The UDA had already been aggrieved because, in June's elections, the DUP won not a single assembly seat. The most deadly group, the Loyalist Volunteer Force, is furious that the Government has refused to release its prisoners early. But the fact that Roman Catholics as well as Protestants were targets of the Omagh bomb militated against a return to violence. While the UDA and the Ulster Volunteer Force both know that retaliation would mean

their prisoners staying behind bars. The other great danger was that Unionism's support for the accord would evaporate. The movement had been split even before Saturday's bomb. The accord's supporters had been prepared to tolerate IRA prisoners being released and Sinn Fein's participation in Northern Ireland's government if that was the price of peace, but their lukewarm backing could turn to outright hostility if they conclude that peace is unattainable.

The view I heard continuously in Omagh is: "Where is the peace process now? If this is peace, what's war?" said William Thompson, the local Ulster Unionist Party MP, who opposes the accord. Even before Saturday, David Trimble, the UUP leader and First Minister, had only a very slim majority among Unionists elected to the assembly. The Omagh bomb has made it almost inconceivable that he could sit in a Cabinet with Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness without irrefutable proof of the Provisional IRA's commitment to non-violence. The criteria include a start to disarmament, a declaration that the war is over, and now, perhaps, Sinn Fein's help as an enforcer.

Republican past keeps repeating itself

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

HISTORY OF DIVISION

THE story of the republican movement throughout this century has been one of splits. Every time an Irish republican leader has sought to take the route of conventional politics, he has spawned a split with those who believe unity can be achieved only through armed struggle.



Michael Collins caused anger among colleagues when he signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921



State parliament, which purists did not recognise. What remained of the IRA stood by the gun, but de Valera was ruthless in pushing down the rump republican movement.

In 1921 Michael Collins divided republicans when he signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty that led to partition. He viewed the treaty he signed with Lloyd George as a "stepping stone" towards independence for the whole of Ireland. Many former colleagues who had fought to win independence from Britain bitterly disagreed with his decision and civil war broke out. Collins's pro-treaty volunteers were incorporated into the Free State Army and fought against anti-treaty volunteers led by Eamon de Valera. Collins was killed by anti-treaty forces in an ambush. De Valera then divided the movement again in 1927 when, as head of the Flanna Fail — Soldiers of Destiny — opposition party he entered the Free State parliament, which purists did not recognise. What remained of the IRA stood by the gun, but de Valera was ruthless in pushing down the rump republican movement. In 1969 the IRA split into the Official IRA and the Provisionals.

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THE TIMES

Saturday

into Sunday

troubles claim



Mary Logue comforts her son after being told of the death of her 17-year-old daughter Brenda in the attack.

Saturday night turns into Sunday mourning

By ANDREW MACIEB, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE sobbing grew louder as the day wore out in Omagh yesterday and the impact of the bomb was slowly absorbed by hundreds of people gathered in the town's leisure centre in a desperate quest for information.

The men, women and children huddled in family groups, hugging and passing paper tissues as people broke down, unable to cope with losing a loved one who went out shopping and failed to return. Panicked relatives flooded in from early Saturday evening after their searches of bedrooms, friends' houses and hospitals failed to yield any trace of a missing son or daughter, husband or wife.

Police and social workers directed them to noticeboards. The black marker on yellow paper listed who was alive and in which hospital. The luckier ones hugged, kissed and made a hasty trip to one of the six hospitals dealing with the injured.

For others, the yellow notices marked only the beginning of a long and painful wait. They returned again and again to the top of the sheets to ensure they had not missed the name. When they still failed to find it, they persuaded themselves that the authorities had failed to locate or identify their relatives.

Garry Wilson, 20, was waiting for news about his 15-year-old sister Lorraine. His parents were frantically driving around town, checking her friends to see if she had gone there. His sister was at home in Northern Ireland, giving details of the schoolgirl who worked on Saturdays in Omagh, a few doors away from the bomb.

"We think she was told to leave by police when the bomb scare was announced but we don't know where she's gone," he said.

Around midnight, a man

THE LONG WAIT FOR NEWS



Brenda Logue: family was told she was blast victim

stood at the side of the canteen with a megaphone, announcing that he had a new list of people hospitalised. Silence descended as he read out about 20 names. Lorraine Wilson was not among them.

"We'll just have to wait until we hear," Garry said. But the wait was becoming unbearable. Social workers, priests and ministers moved between the groups that grew smaller and paler as night turned into early morning.

In a back room, police interviewed relatives about distinguishing body marks. When that failed to yield a definitive answer, the police asked for photographs and

descriptions of jewellery. By 2am the crowd was down to 100. Sons sent parents home to sleep and assumed watch duty. For Eugene Hassen, the Roman Catholic hospital chaplain, the scene was heart-breaking.

He said: "The really awful thing is that everybody waiting here now at this time of the morning is unlikely to find somebody missing or injured. They're probably going to discover that they are dead. How do you prepare somebody for that? It proved an impossible task. The family of Brenda Logue, a 17-year-old Roman Catholic, sat up all night. She had gone shopping

with her mother and grandmother. They were in St Kells, the main suppliers of school uniforms in Omagh, when she heard commotion outside. Her mother, Mary, saw her leave the shop, heard the bomb explode and had not seen her daughter since.

Her uncle Padraig still retained hope of finding her at 2am. "Part of me is expecting the worst but most of me is optimistic. Someone you love like that doesn't just vanish," he said. But by 9.30am, they had learned the truth. Police told her father, Tommy, that she was dead, a Catholic from a Sinn Fein family, murdered by a Republican bomb.

Mr Logue collapsed. "I knew all along. I knew because the front of the shop was blown out and nobody could survive that," he said. Sean, her 20-year-old brother, broke down. "I loved her to bits. Now she's an angel and that is the way I will remember her."

"The people who did this are nothing but cowards. They will pay for what they have done and go straight to hell."

Lawrence Rush paced the canteen and smoked continuously as he waited for the bad news about his wife Libby, while Alec Hughes, a retired bank manager, puffed quietly on his pipe and waited for information about his 21-year-old daughter Julie, a management student at Dundee University.

Kevin Skelton sobbed as he talked of his wife, the woman he loved passionately, blown apart by Saturday's bomb. The couple and their three daughters had been shopping for school uniforms on Saturday. Like the Logues, they were in Kells, the shop beside the car bomb.

Mr Skelton had gone next door, leaving his wife Philomena and the three girls, Paula, 18, Tracey, 15, and Shauna, 13, to try on the new uniforms. Mrs Skelton only came to town twice a year — to buy Christmas presents and school uniforms.

Mr Skelton heard the explosion, ran out and saw the front of Kells' shop in a heap. "My wife was lying on top of the rubble. She was face down and the clothes had been blown off her," he said.

He felt her pulse but found nothing. He spent the next 90 minutes searching furiously through the rubble, convinced that his three daughters were underneath. But they had survived, Shauna suffering a dislocated jaw.

Mr Skelton went to the morgue yesterday morning to identify his wife of almost 20 years and arrived at the leisure centre afterwards, unsure of where to go now that he had lost his childhood sweetheart. Tears streamed down his face as he talked of her unmarked face as she lay on the morgue table, while under the sheet her legs had been blown to pieces.

George Stewart did not lose any relatives but needed to talk about his arrival on the



A grief-stricken man is comforted outside the leisure centre in Omagh where worried relatives waited for news

scene within minutes of the blast. He saw dead bodies strewn across the road, most terribly mutilated. He was unable to sleep.

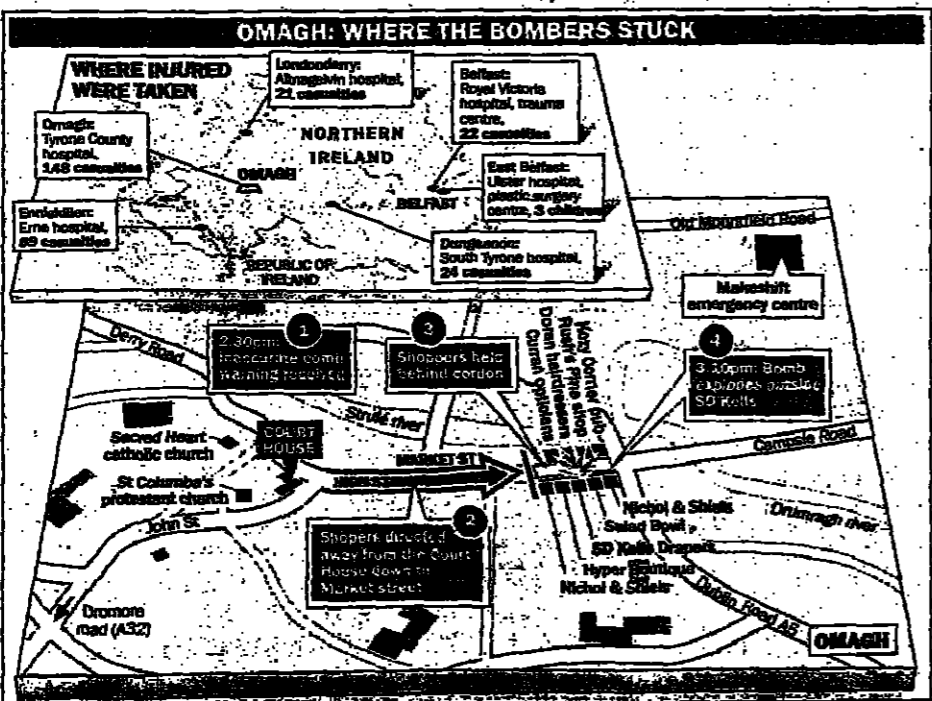
"The thing that stands out most in my mind is the

woman lying in the crowd without a scratch. Just lying there like a corpse that had fallen from the sky. I can't get her out of my mind," he said.

Politicians from all parties spent many hours at the centre

over the weekend. Sean Clarke, the Sinn Fein chairman of the local council and his Ulster Unionist deputy, Alan Rainey, held a joint press conference to condemn the bombing. The town had been

preparing on Saturday for a cross-community parade to mark the end of a festival. But instead Protestants and Roman Catholics abandoned their festivities and united in grief.



Troubles claim first tourist victims

FROM DANIEL SCHWEIMLER IN MADRID AND ADRIAN LEE

TWO Spaniards became the first tourists to be killed in the Troubles in Northern Ireland when they were caught by the Omagh bomb.

The woman teacher and pupil were on an exchange trip from Madrid. Another 11 Spanish students were injured.

The party of about 30 was staying in Buncrana, across the border in County Donegal, but was making a day trip to Omagh for the carnival when the children were caught by the full force of the explosion.

Rosio Abad, 24, the teacher, was making her fifth summer trip to the

Republic and had been due to return to Spain shortly for her sister's wedding. It was the first time she had led the exchange group. The child killed was Fernando Blasco, 12. Among the injured were a brother and sister who were being treated last night in separate hospitals. Their parents were flying to the Province.

An ambulance taking one of the injured pupils to hospital collided with a taxi, killing the car's driver.

Northern Ireland's tourist industry has tried to woo visitors by reassuring them that the risk of violence was very small and that tourists were never attacked.

Jose Maria Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, telephoned Tony Blair to express his sympathy while his deputy,

Fernando Alvarez-Cascos, and Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, flew to Belfast yesterday. They were joined by officials from the Spanish Embassies in London and Dublin who are organising the repatriation of the bodies and gathering information for relatives in Spain.

The Spanish authorities also provided a plane for relatives who wanted to go to Northern Ireland. Spanish translators manned emergency telephone numbers given out on radio and television.

Events in Northern Ireland are of great interest in Spain, where many see parallels with their own problems in the Basque country, where hundreds have died since ETA separatists began their violent campaign in the 1960s.

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Hospital staff had to treat own children

BY ADRIAN LEE

HOSPITAL workers treated injured and dying victims of the bomb blast, not knowing whether members of their own families had survived. At the Tyrone County Hospital, in Omagh, where many of the 220 casualties arrived in the first two hours, staff watched their own children wheeled into the emergency ward.

In all, nine hospitals on both sides of the border were used. Several had treated victims of previous atrocities in the Province and were able to put emergency plans into operation as the first casualties began arriving on Saturday afternoon.

The injured were brought by car, helicopter, ambulance and two buses commandeered by a local council.

The most seriously hurt were transferred to specialist units at the Royal Victoria Hospital, in Belfast and Altnagelvin, in Londonderry and the Ulster hospital at Dundonald in east Belfast.

Twenty-five people were transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, the Province's trauma centre. Twenty-two people remained in the hospital last night including 15 women, of whom five are critically ill, five men of whom two are critical, and two critically ill children. At least two of the women critically ill are pregnant.

Three children were transferred to the Ulster hospital at Dundonald which is the centre specialising in plastic

THE VICTIMS

surgery in the Province. Two of them are 14 years old and the other is a 13 year old Spanish visitor to the Province.

The Tyrone county hospital in Omagh bore the brunt of the tragedy, dealing with 148 casualties. Twenty seven patients remained in the hospital last night and were in a stable condition.

Many victims suffered severe injuries to their legs. A priest, Father John Gilmore, administered the last rites to casualties lying on mattresses in corridors. Twenty-one people, seventeen women and four men, were treated at Altnagelvin hospital in Londonderry. Last night three were critically ill, three seriously ill, two were ill and the remaining 13 were in a stable condition.

At Altnagelvin, Joan Hutchinson, the clinical services manager, worked through the night, unable to determine whether her own family from Omagh had escaped. "The lines were down - I still don't know if they are all right."

Ms Hutchinson, who joined the hospital as a student nurse 37 years ago, said: "The injuries were terrible. We just lost track of time. They started arriving here at 5pm on Saturday and just kept coming."

Five teenagers were among the injured there. "Children are very resilient but some

have very clear memories of what happened," said Ms Hutchinson. A team of 20 medical staff worked through the night in three operating theatres.

Sixty-nine casualties were sent to the Erne hospital in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh and last night thirty were still being treated. The hospital said that one of three children was in intensive care, while 19 women and eight men were in surgical wards.

A further 24 casualties were treated at the south Tyrone hospital in Dungannon, Co Tyrone. Eleven were still being treated last night while the remainder had been discharged. Seven victims underwent emergency surgery yesterday. Three hospitals in the Republic also took casualties.

Many members of the public telephoned, offering blood and donor sessions will be organised throughout Northern Ireland, this week, to replenish stocks.

One of the medical staff tending the wounded at Tyrone County Hospital saw their own child brought in seriously injured.

Dominic Pinto, senior consultant surgeon at Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh, said: "One or two of my staff had their own children involved. One case was quite a severe incident."

He said of the aftermath of Saturday's blast: "It was a battlefield."



A friend comforting a girl injured in the Omagh bomb as she is flown by army helicopter to Belfast.

Shopping visit that ended in grief

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE neighbouring villages of Carrickmore and Loughmoro, in one of Northern Ireland's most staunchly Republican areas, were yesterday mourning teenage victims of the atrocity.

Brenda Logue and Gareth Conway, both 18, were on separate shopping trips to Omagh. Mr Conway, who was buying contact lenses, lived in Carrickmore, about three miles away.

The Carrickmore community is strongly Republican - anti-British graffiti is daubed on walls, the Irish tricolour hangs from lampposts and a garden of remembrance has been dedicated to those who fell in the name of Republicanism. But in the village yesterday, there was condemnation for the attack. Father Sean Haggerty, who knew both victims, said: "The community feels anger and hurt - this will have a devastating effect. I certainly wouldn't want to belong to any group which claimed responsibility for that."

Neither victim came from a political family, he said. "They come from what I would describe as good, strong, decent Irish families." Both were regular churchgoers. A wake was being held for Mr Conway, a keen footballer, last night. His parents were too upset to comment last night but a neighbour, Nora Donnelly, said: "He was a lovely, quiet boy." She feared there would be reprisals for the attack. "There will not be much peace now," she said.

The three-mile country road from Carrickmore to Brenda Logue's home town, of Loughmoro, is strewn with anti-British placards, but Miss Logue's aunt, Brigid McCullagh, said only a Republican could have carried out the bombing. "This had nothing to do with sectarianism," she said.

Miss Logue, who was due back at school in two weeks, died when she left her mother, Mary, and grandmother, Philomena, in a shop. The older women escaped with minor injuries.

THE VILLAGES

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Community that lived in harmony and voted for peace

BY RICHARD FORD

THE TOWN

THREE months ago an overwhelming majority of the 20,000 people of Omagh, a small market town nestled near the Sperrin mountains, voted for peace in the referendum on the Good Friday agreement. Five weeks later they reaffirmed their backing for the deal by supporting candidates will-

ing to work the powersharing Assembly with its offer of a better future for both traditions.

The small market town is divided about 60-40 between Nationalists and Unionists and, like many areas west of the River Bann, changes in population are slowly increasing

the nationalist grip on political life. The town has escaped the worst sectarian hatreds that affect other parts of Northern Ireland though relations between the communities are tense. Both live largely separate lives: living, working and playing sport apart. The Protestants live mainly along the Hospital Road and the Roman Catholics in estates along the Derry Road. Only a

handful of children attend integrated schools. Most Roman Catholics attend Loreto convent or the Christian Brothers school with Protestants going to Omagh Academy.

It was in Omagh in 1983 that a Sinn Fein candidate won a district council by election in the first council election contested by the party for almost half a century. Sinn Fein is now the biggest single

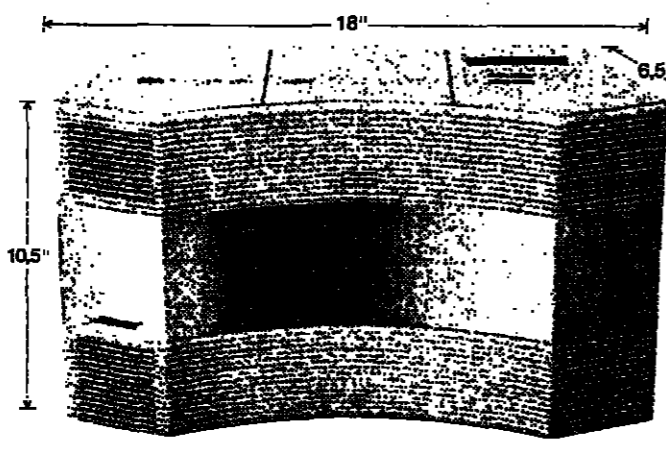
party on the local town council with 6 of 14 seats and in west Tyrone, the constituency in which Omagh is the largest town, the Ulster Unionist held the Westminster seat by just 1,161 votes. He was saved from losing the seat to the Social Democratic and Labour party because of a split in the nationalist vote between the SDLP and Sinn Fein.

As the county town of Co Tyrone,

Omagh is the most important commercial and administrative centre providing seven schools and colleges with more than 7,000 schoolchildren and students. It is a market town, with about 10 per cent of people working in manufacturing and agricultural sectors respectively. On Saturdays the town's population is swelled by shoppers from villages.

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Adams jostled by angry townspeople as Prescott condemns 'contemptible cowards'



To John Prescott, the bombing was a crime against the whole community; Mary McAleese, comforting John McKinney of Omagh council, was "broken-hearted"; Gerry Adams said the bombers should own up

GERRY ADAMS was jostled and jeered yesterday by people waiting at the emergency centre in Omagh for news of missing friends and relatives. The Sinn Féin President and his fellow MP, Martin McGuinness, were among a procession of politicians and leading churchmen to visit the leisure centre that has become the focus for Omagh's suffering. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, arrived after walking through the ruins of Market Street as police continued to search wrecked buildings, wheeling away barrowloads of debris and personal belongings. Shaking his head, he called the bombers "contemptible cowards".

Pointing to the bombed-out ruins he said: "When you put a bomb in circumstances like this, it is a crime against the whole community." The Irish President, Mary McAleese, was in tears as she embraced waiting families. "I am just broken-hearted," she said. "They have had their lives broken into a million pieces and I don't know whether they can ever be knitted together again." She walked into the centre minutes after the Sinn Féin delegation but studiously avoided Mr Adams. He was jabbed in the arm as a youth shouted at him: "You have the blood of this town on your hands." As he was jostled away, another man, David Scobie, shouted at Mr Adams: "One of my friends is dead, and you know who did it, so give up their names and prove you care." Mr McGuinness pushed his colleague away and shouted back at the hecklers: "They are no friends of ours."

After meeting some of the exhausted and grief-stricken families, Mr Adams had said the bombers should own up to planting the device and "stop their activities right now." He said: "I interrupted my holidays to come here because I feel very moved by this. I hope those who have done this will reflect on the enormity of what they have done and stop now." After moving through the centre for over 30 minutes, he left for a meeting with Tony Blair. Leading figures in Omagh had expected the Prime Minister to visit the devastated town centre and there was surprise and some disappointment that he remained at Stormont, in meetings, rather than going to see for himself what they called the ruination of their community. Mr Prescott did visit some of the injured in hospital, where he praised the work of medical staff and the stoicism of survivors, including a teenage boy who had wanted to know how Liverpool's match had finished. President McAleese, who had flown by helicopter to a British Army base in the town, said: "The people who did this are off the scale of human decency. I do not know what they are capable of but they absolutely have to be stopped."

scared me what they could still be planning. This was the most extraordinary act of evil and anarchy ever perpetrated on this island." On the way into the centre, she embraced two women as they whispered to her that they had lost a close friend. She shook her head, kissed them both, and said, "God bless you". She spent longer than scheduled at the Tyrone hospital visiting some of the 27 most seriously injured. Earlier, surveying the scene of devastation in the town centre, she said: "Whoever planted that bomb, they knew exactly what they were doing. I had to say that, there is no other explanation that one can offer." Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP, and the SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon joined the procession of visitors who included the Spanish Ambassador to Dublin. He passed on his thanks for the help given to a party of Spanish youngsters who were in the town when the bomb went off. One child and teacher were killed. Among the leading churchmen was Archbishop Robin Eames of the Church of All Ireland, who said: "This was a horrible, terrible act and I just want to give what help I can to the people who are suffering so deeply. We thought we had seen the end of such tragedies."

Daniel McGrory hears a succession of official visitors to Omagh's emergency centre voicing their reactions

THE POLITICIANS

Ahern says internment may be necessary

Dublin is determined to track down the killers, Jill Sherman reports

THE REPUBLIC

THE Irish Prime Minister yesterday refused to rule out the use of internment against the republican splinter group being blamed for the Omagh massacre. Bertie Ahern had an emergency meeting with ministers and security chiefs in Dublin yesterday morning to establish whether the Government needed new powers to "ruthlessly suppress" the splinter group. "Whatever resources are necessary to crush this organisation will be given," he said. The Taoiseach has now recalled the entire Cabinet for a meeting in the coming days to discuss any emergency measures needed in the light of the atrocity. "Whatever has to be done will be done," he said. Mr Ahern said after yesterday's meeting: "We effectively ruled nothing out, and over the next day or two will start examining the legislation and look at our intelligence and our surveillance mechanisms. I think the message from

the Government is that we are determined to defeat this campaign in short order. Whatever is necessary to do that we will do that." The Irish Government has emergency powers to imprison terrorist suspects indefinitely without trial, although this has not been done in the Republic since the late 1950s. Mr Ahern made clear in interviews in Dublin that internment was not his first option as it had not proved effective in the past, but he refused to rule it out. This year, London repealed powers to institute internment in Northern Ireland. Although internment is now said to be being considered by police chiefs both north and south of the border, British sources said it was unlikely that Parliament, which is now in recess would be recalled to reinstate the laws providing for internment in the Province. Mr Ahern said he would be looking at existing legislation and would ask for a recall of



Mr Ahern and Liz O'Donnell, a junior Irish Foreign Minister, after an emergency security meeting yesterday

the Dail if necessary. "We have all put in too much over many years to try and bring peace and democracy to this island, and I'm not going to allow a position where a handful of people, maybe up to a hundred but probably far less, are going to thwart the efforts of the United States, the British Government, politicians in the North and the Irish Government and more importantly practically every man, woman and child on this island." Last night as he entered talks in Belfast with Tony Blair last night, Mr Ahern vowed to work closely with the British Government to bring the terrorists to justice. We have to make sure we work

closely with the Garda, with the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and, between the two Governments, to make sure we do every single thing we can to make sure the people involved in this are crushed." Asked if he would consider using internment, Mr Ahern said: "We will consider whatever we must do." Mary McAleese, the Irish President, travelled to Omagh yesterday to see the devastation at first hand. She said that there was "a posse of serial killers at loose" on the island of Ireland who must be hunted down and brought to justice. The President argued that the bombers had not been influenced by the debate within the republican movement

which had led to the IRA ceasefire. "I would have my doubts about how open to any kind of debate these people are. The message of those men and women of violence was a message of cold, calculated hatred," she said. The Irish press universally condemned the bombing. An editorial in *The Sunday Independent* said: "To plant a bomb in a busy street on the busiest shopping day of the week, and then provide the RUC with an inaccurate warning some 40 minutes before the bomb exploded is unforgivable." The editorial said that loyalists should resist the temptation to respond in kind. "This would only serve to play into

the hands of those republican extremists." The editorial said that a measured response from London and Dublin to the terrorist threat was needed. "At desperate and dangerous times like this, all signatories to the Northern Ireland agreement must play their part in defending it against direct attacks like yesterday's Omagh bombing." *The Sunday Tribune* said: "The time has come for the Provisional IRA to be brave enough to declare that its war is over, that it will allow Sinn Féin to participate in the political process in the normal manner without having the threat of the bomb and the bullet behind it if it does not get its way."

UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION

"The future belongs to the decent people of Northern Ireland. It doesn't belong to the criminals and psychopaths. The people who have perpetrated this deed will not win."
Tony Blair

"I was shocked to hear of the appalling crime in Omagh which resulted in so many deaths and injuries. Please pass my heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved, injured and those others who have suffered in their distress."
The Queen

"This is the most evil deed in years."
Bertie Ahern, Irish Prime Minister

"My earnest hope for that beloved country is that the Irish people of goodwill will not succumb to violence and that they will persevere with determination in building that peaceful coexistence on which the future depends."
Pope John Paul II

"I am totally horrified by this action. I condemn it without any equivocation whatsoever."
Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Féin

"I am appalled and disgusted. It was an indefensible action."
Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin MP

"No stone will be left unturned until we bring these people to justice."
Ronnie Flanagan, RUC Chief Constable

"The overwhelmingly positive results in the recent Irish referendums showed a determined desire for peace rather than conflict and violence. So much goodwill and faith should not be lost to the mindless violence of a few."
President Mandela

"Sinn Féin cannot escape its responsibility in this bloody atrocity."
David Trimble, First Minister, Northern Ireland Assembly

"On behalf of the American people, I condemn this butchery."
President Clinton

"I had prayed we would never see an incident like this again."
John Major, former Prime Minister

Clinton says 'barbaric act' will not stop visit

FROM LAN BRADIS IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton condemned the "butchery" of the Omagh bombing yesterday and said he did not intend to let it interfere with his visit to Northern Ireland next month. In a statement released by the White House, Mr Clinton said: "I renew my pledge to stand with the people of Northern Ireland against the perpetrators of violence. They will find no friends here." With the bombing displacing the Monica Lewinsky scandal as the

leading news item, Mr Clinton called the blast a "barbaric act intended to wreck Northern Ireland's aspirations for peace and reconciliation". He continued: "On behalf of the American people, I condemn this butchery and hope that the culprits will be brought to justice quickly." As one who has personally chivvied the Irish political factions since he took office six years ago, the President urged all parties in Ulster to step up efforts to end violence. "Now is the time for the parties of peace to redouble their efforts," he said. It was the second time in nine

US REACTION

days that Mr Clinton had responded angrily to terrorist attacks. The first was the twin bombings of American embassies in East Africa. In denouncing the Irish bomb, he did not appear in person because he was closeted with lawyers before his crucial grand jury testimony today in the Lewinsky case. The Omagh bomb is not expected to affect the President's itinerary in Ireland. He will spend September 3 in Belfast and Armagh before leaving

for the Irish Republic and a day and a half of meetings, speeches and golf in Dublin and Limerick. His Irish trip is intended to underscore American support for the Good Friday agreement and its goal of power sharing among contending groups. In Northern Ireland, he will make a speech to the Assembly and meet victims of violence. Mr Clinton's outrage over the Omagh bombing was echoed by Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker, who returned to the United States on Saturday from a week-long

tour of Ireland as leader of a Congressional delegation. He said: "I call on all parties to the conflict to join me in publicly condemning this deplorable and cowardly act. We cannot allow the quest for peace in Northern Ireland to be derailed by a handful of despicable terrorists." George Mitchell, the former American senator who was chairman of the peace talks, blamed a tiny group of "cowards and murderers who are trying to destroy the process that is supported by the overwhelming majority of the people in Northern Ireland."



Enjoy my film or I'll give your money back

Dalya Alberge reports on a public offer from a producer who was refused backing by the Arts Council

A FILM producer who has bitterly attacked the Arts Council for rejecting his application for lottery money is so convinced his film will be a success that he is offering to refund the price of tickets to anyone who does not agree with him.

Producer Tom McCabe said that with a cast that includes Sir John Gielgud, Robert Hardy and Stephen Fry, and a script that inspired them to waive their usual fees, "my confidence in the film is such that I will personally refund their money to anybody who sees it and doesn't agree that it is one of the top British or Irish films."

Referring to *The Avengers*, which critics have universally panned, Mr McCabe added: "I wonder whether the people who made *The Avengers* would make such an offer? I

don't think they would." *The Titchborne Claimant* tells the story of how one of Victorian England's wealthiest men, Sir Roger Charles Doughty Titchborne, disappeared in 1866 while sailing round the world.

After hearing of sightings of the aristocrat in South America and Australia, his family sent a manservant, Andrew Bogle, to find him. Bogle returned with a man he believed to be Titchborne, but the ensuing case to decide whether he was the aristocrat, or simply a fraud, proved one of the longest in English legal history.

Mr McCabe, 44, is an actor whose roles include *The Bill*, a producer at the Gate Theatre in Notting Hill and a businessman with interests in the telecommunications industry. The son of an Irish



McCabe: confident his film will be a success

bookmaker he recently sold Swiftcall, a company offering discounted calls to America, and established an Internet telephone company. He invested £3 million of his own money in his first film because the Arts Council rejected his application for £1 million lottery money.

He said: "This film is the very thing they are supposed to be encouraging — a new writer, a first-time director and a first-time producer who has put up most of the money. It

is a non-violent, true story about a British family. I think it's an absolute and utter disgrace."

When the Arts Council turned down his application, so did councils in the Isle of Man and Liverpool, which Mr McCabe said had promised £600,000 and £100,000 respectively. He only heard that funding from the Isle of Man had been withdrawn when the crew was two days into filming, with hotels and locations already booked: "They didn't feel the film was financially secure as the £1 million from the lottery wasn't there."

Mr McCabe's offer of a refund extends both to tomorrow's world premiere at the Edinburgh Film Festival and to its screening nationwide. At an initial screening last April, he said, only four of the 200 who filled out an audience questionnaire said they would not recommend the film to a friend.

He added that Sir John, 94, had loved the script and "all of the actors worked for a lot less than they would normally



Sir Robert Hardy and Stephen Hardy in *The Titchborne Claimant*. They have agreed to waive their usual fees

have done." Charles Denton, chairman of the Arts Council film lottery panel, said: "Clearly those who aren't successful — the majority — are less happy than those who succeed. All applicants are told in writing

why they are not successful. Nobody at the Arts Council has any guarantee they can pick winners. If he wins an Oscar, I hope the Arts Council will cheer his good fortune." Lizzie Francke, director of

the Edinburgh Film Festival, said: "It's a great movie, beautifully directed and beautifully acted. I think there will be few takers for his offer. Tom McCabe is not going to lose money on this one. I'm surprised he had so much

trouble raising the money. This is classic film-making, an incredibly accomplished debut. It has something very Ealing about it: a classical perfection."

Film, page 19

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1,000 more mink are freed from fur farm

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By MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

EFFORTS to recapture the New Forest mink were set back yesterday when 1,000 more escaped from the same fur farm attacked by animal welfare extremists a week ago. Staff arriving at Crow Hill Farm near Ringwood, in Hampshire, at about 8.30am yesterday found the perimeter fence cut and the doors to 40 cages swinging open, police said.

"Whoever committed this crime was extremely foolhardy and reckless in the light of all the warnings issued about the dangers these animals pose for the local ecology," Inspector Roger Carter, of Ringwood police, said. "Trappers who had fanned out into the wider countryside looking for mink which escaped in the first raid have now had to come back to the area round the farm and start all over again." The owner of the farm is to hold discussions today with the police and New Forest District Council in Lyndhurst about tightening security.

Some 2,000 of the 6,000 mink freed by the Animal Liberation Front in the original attack were still at large on Friday. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which has campaigned against fur-farming, said yesterday it was appalled by the latest escape. Two girls described yesterday how they found mink around the tent in which they had been sleeping in a garden in Fordingbridge on Saturday night. Gemma Chapman, 11, and Caroline Howells, 12, said they believed the mink had intended to attack Gemma's spaniel, Sophie, and her Persian cat, Daisy, which were in the tent with them. They were eventually able to shoo them away.

"We were awakened about lam by some really terrible noises — squeals, yelps and scuffling — just outside the tent," Gemma said.

THE TIMES EDUCATION SERVICE

From Wednesday, the most extensive service offered by *The Times* will be available to those in search of a higher education place. A team of staff will be on call for the rest of the month from 7am to 9pm to give advice on the latest opportunities in clearing.

As A-level results are published on Thursday, *The Times* will include a 32-page supplement listing thousands of university and college courses with vacancies and offering help to choose the best course.

Next Monday another supplement will help students to prepare for college life, with study tips and the definitive guide to the new financial arrangements. With daily listings backed by the new helpline, readers of *The Times* will have a head start in the race for a place.

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Toddler found near body of his grandfather

A MASSIVE police search ended yesterday when a boy aged 13 months was found crying close to the body of his grandfather in a remote part of North Wales.

Officers had spent four days looking for Liam and Gwilym Evans, a retired police detective aged 67, who went missing on Thursday. Liam was hungry but said to be unharmed apart from scratches and bruises.

Police say that preliminary inquiries showed that Mr Evans died as a result of a tragic accident. His maroon Vauxhall Vectra appeared to have veered off the road and plunged down the mountainside.

Detectives will now try to piece together exactly what happened but they could not rule out the possibility that Liam had been lying dazed and bewildered in the undergrowth for the past three days.

The toddler was discovered by a young boy from Merseyside on holiday with his family. He was immediately flown by police helicopter to Glyn Clwyd Hospital, near Abergele, where he was reunited with his parents.

The discovery came only hours after the child's distressed parents Gary Evans, 30, and his wife Ruth, 23,

Russell Jenkins reports on the end of a police search for a driver and his tiny grandson

made a second public appeal for help to find the missing couple. The couple were staying at Liam's bedside last night.

The boy and his grandfather's body were found on the fourth day of a search by police following sightings in Snowdonia and beyond Caernarfon along the Lleyn Peninsula.

Mr Evans, who retired as a police inspector in 1986, vanished with Liam from his home in Old Colwyn, near Colwyn Bay, north Wales, on Thursday afternoon. He told his wife Barbara that he would take Liam, who was becoming boisterous and noisy, off her hands.

Detective Superintendent Eric Jones, who led the investigation, told the parents that they had found their son alive

and apparently unharmed. "You can imagine the pressure that the family have been under over the last four days. When I broke the news to both parents, I think they were torn between elation and sadness."

Mr Evans's maroon Vauxhall Vectra came to rest 35 miles away from his home — at least an hour's drive. The car had veered off the Horse-shoe Pass on the A542 near Llangollen.

The car had apparently overturned at least once as it careered 150 yards down steep hilly terrain coming to rest eventually in heavy ferns. Police believe that Mr Evans, although badly injured, was able to free his grandson. Mr Evans was found up to 30 yards back up the hillside, as if he had tried to reach the road to raise help before being overcome by his injuries.

Mr Jones said: "Liam was found conscious about ten yards away from the vehicle, sitting in the ferns. It would appear at this early stage of the investigation that this is nothing more than an accident. However the investigation at the scene will now continue. The matter has been reported to the coroner."

Detectives are mystified as to why Mr Evans, a distinguished colleague in the North Wales constabulary, had decided to drive so far. He did not tell his wife his plans before he disappeared. The grandparents were looking after Liam, who has been described as a noisy and loving boy, because his parents had taken his sister Sophia, three, to see hospital specialists in Liverpool about a dietary disorder.

Police had grown so alarmed by the disappearance that they called in a psychological profiler to compile a rounded picture of the former Special Branch officer, who was described by former colleagues as a quiet chaplain but a "bit of a worrier".



Liam Evans, found bruised but otherwise unharmed, and his grandfather

Friend tells of young model's fatal obsession with dieting

THE best friend of a teenage model who died weighing six stone described yesterday how her dieting became a fatal obsession.

Carla Evans, 16, was so keen to emulate the waif-like model Jodie Kidd that she starved herself until her body could no longer fight off infection. Yesterday Kelly Farrow, 17, said: "It was about this time last year when she started dieting heavily. Then she just stopped eating. The last time I saw her was at the beginning of July and I didn't recognise her because she looked so skinny."

When Miss Evans, of Weston-super-Mare, started on her quest to become a model she was 5ft 7in and weighed eight stone. But eight months ago she stopped eating, taking in barely enough to keep her alive.

Last week, while staying with her grandmother, Wendy Gilmour, in Taunton, she fell ill with flu-like symptoms that developed into tonsillitis. Her condition rapidly deteriorated and she was admitted to hospital. But her body was too feeble to put up a fight and she died from bronchial pneumonia a week ago.

She believed that people were laughing at her because she was fat. Miss Farrow, an administration clerk from Weston-super-Mare, said: "Before all this she was really bubbly, she was good fun and used to make everyone laugh. "I took her to the doctor's once and she didn't want to get on to the scales. She was about 5½ or six stone then. The last time I saw her was a few months ago in town and she looked terrible."

Miss Evans was due to start a beauty course in Taunton next month. She was also planning to have a



Carla Evans, top, and role model Jodie Kidd



professional portfolio of modelling shots put together. She had already done three "shoots" with John Duncan, 52, a local freelance photographer. When he met her a year ago, she was eating healthily and never mentioned her weight. "Carla was slim at that point, not skinny — she looked healthy," he said. "After our second shoot we went for lunch and she ate burgers and chips." Miss Evans's mother, Julie, said: "She was perfect, she didn't need to lose weight. I want to speak to anorexia clinics and tell girls with this horrible illness that you do not need to starve to be beautiful."



Ruth and Gary Evans during an appeal for help

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Scot held up US bank to pay for flight home

A SCOTTISH graduate claimed that he held up a Florida bank at gunpoint to pay for a flight home after his money was stolen by muggers.

John Brown, 22, from Glasgow, is being held in the county jail at Gainesville, charged with armed robbery and stealing a car. He faces up to 20 years in a Florida prison if convicted.

Deborah Colcutt reports on how a backpacker became a bandit after Florida muggers left him penniless

bag, then grabbed a set of car keys belonging to a customer and fled. He found the customer's car parked across the street and drove half a mile down the road.

Witnesses told police they saw him park the car, stash the money behind a nearby house and change some of his clothes. Minutes later, police arrested him as he walked down the street.

He is alleged to have admitted to the crime before he was questioned. According to his parents and friends, Mr Brown, who had been backpacking around America for three months before the robbery two weeks ago, had lost all his cash to muggers.

Speaking from the family home in East Kilbride, his father, John, said: "He has never given us a problem in his life. He was a perfect



John Brown: he faces up to 20 years in prison

student and son. He seemed fine when we last spoke to him and I asked him if he needed any cash. All he had to do was ask us and we would have got him home. We are very worried about him."

become an airline steward but was told he was too young for this year's intake. He decided to travel to the United States to take his mind off his career. He returned to Glasgow briefly in June before flying to Florida.

Friends who gave him a lift to Gainesville bus station on the day of the robbery described his mood as happy. They confirmed that he lost all his money when he was mugged by three men. His parents suspect that he may have been sleeping rough.

His mother, Helen, 52, said: "We have spoken to John three times and his answers are very monosyllabic. He cries a lot and keeps on saying, 'I'm sorry.' He is ashamed of what he has done."

Her husband, 50, said: "He's very naive and non-violent. But we do know he had a migraine for the entire week before this happened. That, combined with the mugging, and if he was worried about money, could have made him lose sense."

Mr Brown is expected to face court this week.



Setting tongues wagging: Zara Phillips at the Gatcombe horse trials yesterday

Children upstage birthday Princess

THE Princess Royal celebrated her 48th birthday at the British Horse Trials Championship at the weekend, but it was her children who took the limelight.

Peter Phillips, 21, had spectators diving for cover in a Land Rover race and his 17-year-old sister, Zara, gave photographers their first glimpse of her much-talked-about tongue stud.

Mr Phillips's Freelander overshot the finishing line at Gatcombe Park and ploughed towards a fenced-off hospitality tent, coming to rest yards from guests. One onlooker said: "There was chaos for a minute with people scattering everywhere."

His sister, in a black polo shirt and wraparound sunglasses, joked with friends as she gave the tongue stud an airing. Her mother looked relaxed as she mingled with spectators at the annual one-day event. She was dressed in a white sports top and jeans, green cap and reflective sunglasses to match her daughters'.

Trials report, page 34

Briton charged over speedboat death in Greece

By JOHN CARR AND CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A BRITON has been charged with negligent manslaughter after a teenage girl was killed when his yacht collided with a speedboat off the Greek island of Levkas.

John Williams, 56, a retired engineer, was also charged with reckless seamanship after the yacht he was steering sliced the powerboat in two. He has been released pending his trial.

The accident took place on Friday when Mr Williams and his wife, Phyllis, 55, a former teacher, were making their way under power back to Nydri harbour, where they have a holiday home.

As they reached Meganisi, their yacht, *Skorvelien*, collided with a smaller glass-fibre speedboat, which was making its way out of the harbour with five people on board.

Maria Konidari, 15, one of the two women on board the speedboat, was killed instantly and her cousin Evanthia, 17, was seriously injured. She was flown to hospital in Athens with critical head injuries and is now in a stable condition.

Mr Williams, of Saundersfoot, South Wales, and his wife were arrested and spent

the night in a police cell. The couple, who have a son and a daughter, were released the following day when Mr Williams appeared before a public prosecutor and was formally charged. The driver of the speedboat, Spyros Katopodis, 23, was also charged with the same offences.

Coastguards refused to speculate on yesterday which of the boats was to blame for the incident but sources claim that Mr Williams told them he was not fleeing from the scene of the accident but had gone to seek help.

Officials said that Mr Williams, who is free to leave the country while he awaits trial, is likely to receive a suspended jail sentence if he is found guilty, rather than be sent to prison.

Mr Williams, a keen yachtsman, has spent the summer in Levkas with his family for the past decade. He and his wife, an amateur singer who puts on musicals in the local Regency Hall and is related to Sir Geraint Evans, the late opera singer, recently sold their previous yacht, which was moored in Saundersfoot, to buy the *Skorvelien*.

After Sanjesh Sharma finished his Technology Management Masters degree in 1994, he spent a year in Spain teaching English as a Foreign Language. The experience led him to a career that makes equal use of his computing and classroom skills: teaching IT. Just fourteen months after joining Crown Hills Community College in Leicester, he was promoted to Head of Department. In the last year, applications to the GCSE course have more than doubled.

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Sanjesh graduated in computing. But he's brilliant at chemistry.



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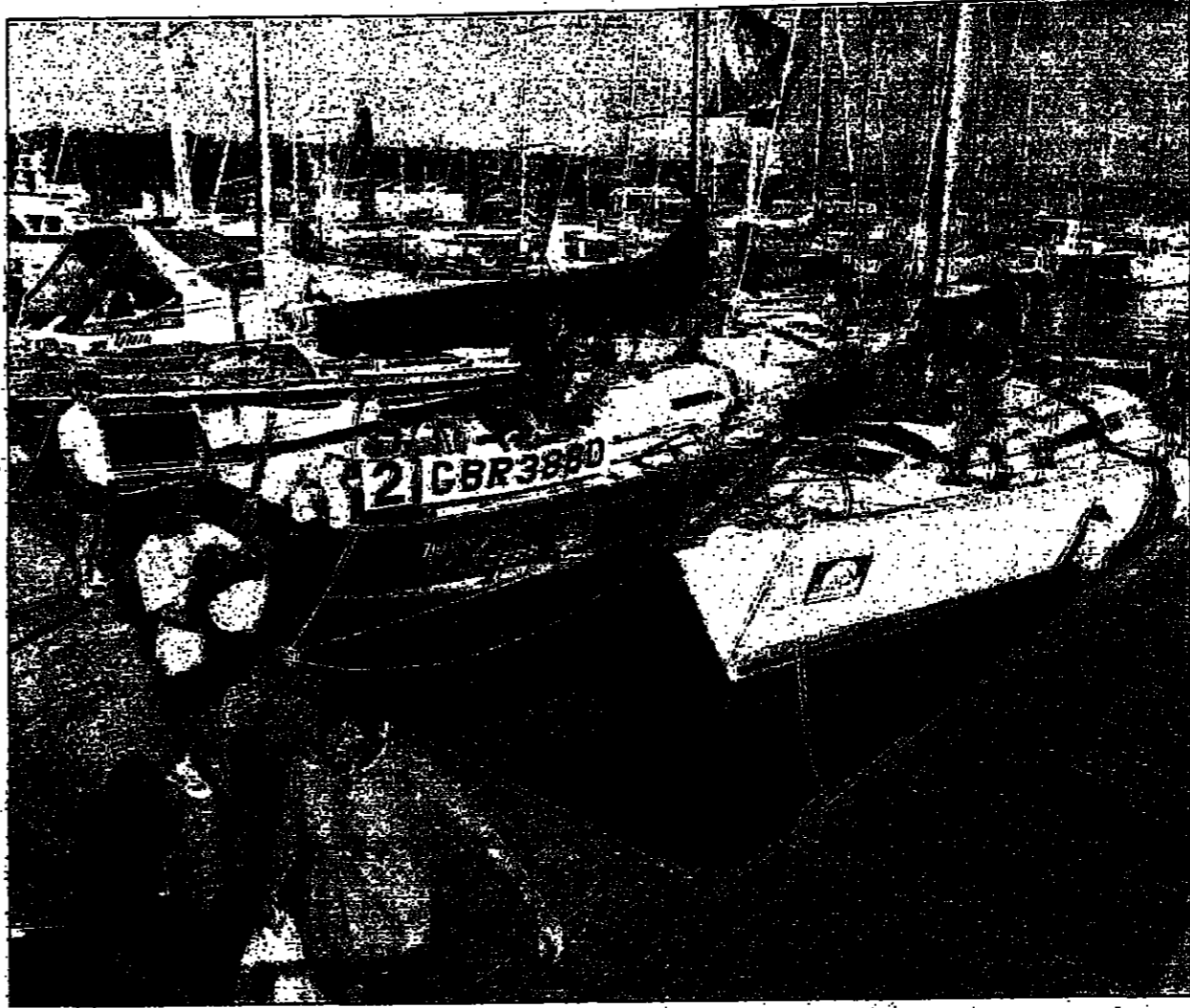
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Summer sails still attract the crowds



The topography may have changed since Turner painted *East Cowes Castle*, but the predilection for taking to the water in sailing boats remains unchanged to this day, although now there are many more yachts

By JOHN YOUNG
In 1827, William Turner was invited by his friend John Nash, the master architect of Regency London and much else, to stay at East Cowes Castle. It was intended from the first to be a working holiday. Nash wanted a painting of the castle he had designed some 30 years earlier to entertain and impress his guests, including the then Prince Regent, Turner, for his part, needed no second invitation to indulge his love of ships and the sea.

It was not the artist's first visit. In 1795, at the age of 20, he had been commissioned by John Landseer, the father of Sir Edwin, to produce ten views of the Isle of Wight. The experience inspired the first Turner oil painting to be exhibited in public, *Fishermen at Sea*, a study of fishing boats in a gale off the Needles, which displayed his mastery of marine subjects and was shown at the Royal Academy the following year.

For most people Cowes is a small town on a small island that comes to life once a year, during the week-long regatta at the beginning of August. In a sense they are right. For much of the time it is a placid sort of place where the locals all seem to know each other and where the pace of life seems to belong to earlier years. But that is not the whole picture. For a town of its size, it has played a remarkably prominent role in Britain's maritime history, not just as a place for building the pleasure craft that sail serenely around the Solent, but as



The Times continues its series on how scenes by great British artists have changed
No 5: J.M.W. Turner, *East Cowes Castle: The Regatta Starting for Their Moorings*

home to a number of companies more readily associated with the ships, aircraft and weapons of war. Two centuries or more ago, local boatbuilders utilised their skills and enterprise to produce fast boats both for smugglers and for the coastguards whose task it was to catch them. But the main shipyard development took place in the last century with the growth of firms building everything from destroyers to lifeboats and, in this century, seaplanes, hovercraft and helicopters. In the Second World War, Cowes became a target for Hitler's bombers and was severely blitzed in the spring of 1942.

The other factor that helped to put the town and the Isle of Wight on the map was the royal connection. In 1845 the Queen and the Prince Consort bought the Osborne estate on the edge of the town and commissioned Thomas Cubitt to build the Italianate villa which became their favourite home. Children were frequently given a half day off school to greet the arrival of the Royal Yacht in Cowes.

It was at Osborne, too, that Victoria retreated to mourn Albert, and where she died in 1901. Her son, Edward VII, gave it to the nation and it is now in the care of English Heritage. Meanwhile, Edward and younger members of the family spent much of the time yachting and entertaining most of the crowned heads of Europe. It was at Osborne, too, that Victoria learnt of the victory of a little black schooner from New York over the cream of the English racing fleet in a race that gave birth to the America's Cup.

Today Cowes remains divided into East and West, linked only by the Floating Bridge, a chain ferry across the River Medina. Of the two, West Cowes, with its pedestrianised high street, shops, boutiques, restaurants and swanky yacht clubs, attracts the majority of tourists, while East Cowes remains the more industrialised. Ship and boatbuilding are still an important part of the local economy, although on a much reduced scale from 50 years ago.

Yachtsmen apart, most of the summer visitors are day-trippers from other resorts on the island which, unlike Cowes, have beaches, or on excursions from the mainland: the high-speed passenger ferry from Southampton takes a mere 20 minutes. Osborne House is a big tourist attraction and gets very crowded in midsummer. Our photograph, taken from the east bank, shows how much the scene has changed since Turner's day. There are many times the number of boats at moorings or berthed in marinas, and the once-pastoral riverside is now almost entirely urbanised. The castle, too, has gone. After the death of Nash, who is buried in St James's churchyard, his widow was forced for financial reasons to sell it to the Gort family, who kept it until the outbreak of the Second World War: Lord Gort commanded the British Expeditionary Force at Dunkirk. During the war the castle was occupied by troops and afterwards left empty and decaying. Despite attempts to rescue it, it was demolished in the late 1960s. Its counterpart in West Cowes, not visible in the picture, is the long-time home of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

East Cowes Castle: The Regatta Starting For Their Moorings, is in the Tate Gallery, London.

NEXT: John Constable's *The Hay Wain*

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Students face steep university rent rises

By VICTORIA FLETCHER AND KATE EVANS

UNIVERSITY students are to face one of the most expensive years on record after the cost of accommodation rose by 22 per cent during the past year. First-year students are to be charged up to £12 per week to live in catered halls of residence which have been expensively refurbished by universities keen to attract business conferences during the holidays. New en-suite bathrooms, cable television and telephones have helped to push rents to record levels.

Meanwhile, the cost of renting flats and houses outside the university has also risen sharply because of the booming housing market and high interest rates. A growth in the number of first-time buyers has left undergraduates with less choice of housing at higher prices.

The National Union of Students said the dramatic rise would put more students under pressure to live at home and study in a nearby institution.

King's College London, which charges up to £12 per week, said its catered rooms were good value. "It is expensive but there is always a queue of people wanting to get in," a spokeswoman said.

Regional universities are also raising their accommodation prices. Catered housing at the University of Manchester costs up to £94 per week despite the relatively low cost of housing in the city.

A spokesman for Keele University, which offers the cheapest accommodation in the country, said: "We aim to keep our accommodation costs as low as possible. We offer a variety of accommodation on different letting periods. With some students it's a critical factor."

Rising rents will increase pressure on students struggling to pay this year's £1,000 tuition fee. The annual *Push* university survey has found that many students graduate with debts of up to £12,000, and that debt forced one in five to drop out.

Councils oppose Prescott over charge for city driving

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MOST councils believe that government plans to allow them to charge motorists to enter city centres will drive away business and shoppers, a study has shown. Many Labour authorities believe that instead of making parking more difficult and expensive, they should provide more car parks or reduce charges.

One of the most comprehensive surveys into traffic congestion has concluded that councils "will not adopt the big stick approach" and warns John Prescott, the Transport Secretary, that only compulsion will lead to widespread charging. Of the 123 councils

questioned, only one in ten is using reductions in the number of spaces as a deterrent. There is widespread concern that additional charges will force shoppers, and possibly businesses, to go elsewhere.

The survey, by the property consultants Healey & Baker, also found that one in four councils plans to increase the amount of public parking, compared with one in five preparing to reduce it. Larger councils, such as metropolitan and county councils, were more likely to reduce parking than district bodies.

Although half the councils questioned said that they had

raised parking charges during the past two years, 85 per cent said that the effect on the amount of parking had been insignificant.

Almost one in four of the councils operates park-and-ride schemes, with seven in ten of the largest authorities using them. One in five said that park-and-ride reduced congestion. Although it is seen as the most effective measure, money is required to introduce more schemes. Neville Moss, the report's author, concludes that improved bus services and park-and-rides are the best short-term answer to congestion.

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Memorial to Nazis' atrocities must be in the mind not in stone

To travel by train, as I did again last week, from Berlin to Warsaw and on to Auschwitz, is to retrace the bloody paths of the Holocaust.

In Berlin, politicians plan to move into old Third Reich buildings — the Reichsbank for the Foreign Ministry, the Luftwaffe's offices for the Finance Ministry.

Some 40 miles to the east, the train crosses the Oder, swollen by summer rain, into Poland and rattles through cornfields, past small towns with redbrick sheds once used by the Germans for making arms. Traces of what was once Europe's largest

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Jewish community have been wiped out, like chalk marks on a blackboard, and bus stations stand on the site of synagogues.

Warsaw, booming but still scarred, is considering the construction of a Holocaust museum. Down south, Auschwitz, so branded by history that even the crows and pigeons avoid it, is again at the centre of a hot-tempered debate about how the dead should be mourned.

More than half a century has passed and we still have no clear idea how to deal with the Holocaust. The Swiss banks which have at last agreed to pay camp victims will soon find that their problems have only just begun: finding survivors, identifying their needs, the degree of their victimhood, is a

process that goes well beyond the signing of a cheque.

In the middle of this confusion Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is preparing to announce the establishment of a German Holocaust memorial.

Berlin Christian Democrats this week will try to agree a common line, and a few days later the Chancellor is expected to give the thumbs-up to a design that will position thousands of high stones in a huge wasteland in the heart of the new Berlin.

I have been broadly sympathetic to this project. Every

visitor to the future German Chancellor will have to drive past this memorial. Close to the former nerve centre of the Nazis' Third Reich, it will make a useful point — that the former totalitarian states all have to carry with them, for ever, the heavy luggage of memory.

The design was not particularly elegant, and there were some predictable criticisms — that it would be a paradise for neo-Nazi graffiti scrawlers, or that in order to prevent damage it would have to be fenced in with barbed wire and snarling dogs. Even so, it seemed to make sense.

Today I'm not so sure.

Michael Nauman, Gerhard Schröder's newly appointed cultural spokesman, argues that by freezing memory you are saying: "This monument represents the payment of our last debt to history and now we can move on."

But history should be constantly confronted, easy enough to do in Berlin where one can mourn the dead in at least 70 places.

Outside the city there were the Sachsenhausen and Ravensbrück camps, and in Berlin itself there are countless cemeteries (including one for Soviet slave labourers), deportation points, the site of the book burning, the meat-

hooks where anti-Hitler conspirators were killed, synagogues or plaques marking their site. Most of these places have some kind of informational stand.

Herr Nauman's case is that one should concentrate on encouraging people to visit the real places of horror rather than on artistic statements which always contain an element of dishonesty. This argument has no place in an election campaign.

But Herr Nauman's points are valid. They have been very effectively refined by Moshe Zimmermann of the

Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He argues that monuments invariably lose their meaning. The important task, he says, is to universalise the message of the Holocaust rather than focus entirely on Germany's collective guilt. The term "collective guilt" needs to be overhauled for it suggests the possibility of collective absolution.

The other side of collective guilt is collective victimhood for Jews and other groups who suffered at the hands of the Germans. The aim, he says, has to be to build a memorial in the head, not on the ground.

Marines poised for rescue mission in Congo



Fears are rising of widespread looting as rebel and government troops rampage across Congo, Sam Kiley writes from Kinshasa

FIFTY Royal Marines yesterday flew into Brazzaville from the British base on Ascension Island in the Atlantic to join a multinational force on standby to evacuate foreigners from neighbouring Kinshasa. Reports have increased of widespread looting behind the lines as rebels advance on the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Marines, from 40 Commando based in Taunton, Somerset, joined several hundred French troops as part of contingency plans for what diplomats fear could be a total collapse of order in Kinshasa. Their greatest fear is of undisciplined government soldiers rampaging through the city of 6.5 million people in a looting spree ahead of a rebel assault.

Many units of the Armed Forces of Congo (FAC) have switched sides as the Tutsi-led rebels advance across the far east of Congo and from the rich southwest of the country. These units were left behind to guard rear positions, intelligence sources said yesterday, and resorted to widespread looting and harassment of



Royal Marines rehearse rapid evacuation manoeuvres on Ascension Island in the Atlantic as anxiety grows for British citizens in Congo

Westerners trapped by the rebel advance.

About ten Europeans, mostly Belgians, were yesterday desperately calling for help, using mobile telephones, after being trapped in the compound of a flour mill in the port city of Matadi on the River Congo. "They have been calling for helicopters to get them out. They have run out of money after being regularly visited by so-called rebel troops. They said that they had enough tinned food for about a week, but sounded desperate and very scared," an intelligence source said.

Others reported that several farms in the area round Matadi had been looted by Congolese troops who had either joined the rebellion or "fractured into marauding outfits in search of plunder".

The sinister developments continued to spur foreigners to leave Kinshasa yesterday. The Belgian Government flew two plane-loads of foreigners from Kinshasa's main airport to Libreville, Gabon, while the French tried in vain to get permission for about 700

people to cross the River Congo to Brazzaville, capital of Congo-Brazzaville, a former French colony.

On Saturday, Kinshasa was extremely tense. Whites were harassed, spat upon and threatened, with stones by locals who had been inflamed into a near-frenzy of xenophobia by the local press which claimed, among other things, that two American warships sailing towards Congo were to be used in support of the rebellion.

Yesterday very few vehicles moved through the decaying boulevards of Kinshasa. Most locals preferred to stay off the streets. They packed church services praying to be spared

the sort of looting which in 1991 and 1993 wrecked the city, burnt down businesses and shut factories. At the Kutino Ferdinand Church of Explosives and Miracles, the crutches of former cripples cured by the Rev Ferdinand hung on the wall behind the preacher. He told a congregation of 500 people that God had told him Kinshasa would not be attacked by the rebels. "Hallelujah," the congregation replied.

However, the Tutsi rebels only represent a part of the threat.

A European ambassador said: "The main danger will be that the Congolese army seems to be prepared to switch

sides at a moment's notice. They have been losing towns like a set of falling dominoes. But then, as the real soldiers have gone forward, they have been looting and splitting into factions loyal only to their local commanders. That is a recipe for catastrophe."

About 100 Britons, mainly businessmen and journalists, have ignored instructions from the embassy in Kinshasa to leave the country. "Many feel they have seen it all before, and have substantial investments they would like to protect," said a spokesman for the embassy.

He said that British investment, through companies like De Beers, Unilever and Brit-

ish American Tobacco, was second only to Belgium in the former Zaire.

The British commandos and their French comrades were yesterday refining plans to cross into Kinshasa, if the city collapses into anarchy, to secure several areas around the city as safe points to collect foreigners. Another 140 commandos were standing by on Ascension Island ready to reinforce the Brazzaville contingent.

French and Belgian troops last intervened in Kinshasa five years ago when the late President Mobutu Sese Seko allowed his own army to go on a five-day looting rampage in lieu of wages.

Hunters in France let boars run wild

OVERKEEN huntsmen have been blamed for a huge increase of wild boars in southern France and forced an early start to the hunting season.

In their enthusiasm for targets, France's four million huntsmen have taken such care to feed boars and encourage them to breed that numbers have got out of hand.

The move to bring the season forward by a month came amid reports that tourists, farmers and motorists have suffered as a result of a huge increase in the number of French wild boars over the past 20 years.

Jean Lagrault, head of the Federation of Hunters in the Var department of southern France, where there are now an estimated 35,000 boars, said: "We managed to kill 18,000 last year but we need to kill far more to solve the problem."

His federation was recently ordered to pay Fr25 million (£255,000) as compensation to local farmers for the damage done by the boars, who have eaten their way through fields of wheat, grass and vines. "This is an animal that likes grapes for their fresh, sweet juice," M Lagrault said.

The beasts also appear to like cold water, with one now recently discovered drinking from a swimming pool in a holidaymaker's garden in the department. "People around here are getting frightened because they see wild boars sauntering across their patios," said Jeannine Maheux, a local huntsman.

French highway authorities say the number of accidents caused by boars in Provence rose from four in 1991 to 114 last year.

The hunting season was due to start when holidaymakers returned home on September 13. Huntsmen say they will only use their rifles at night to avoid walkers ending up in the firing line.

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English invasion pushes up prices of French homes

Expats abandon Riviera for the Dordogne writes Adam Sage in Paris

BRITISH expatriates have helped to revolutionise the French housing market with "English-speaking areas", such as the Dordogne, booming and the traditionally chic French Riviera in decline.

According to a survey published at the weekend, the price of second homes rose by almost 10 per cent in 1997 and is likely to rise sharply in all French regions except the Mediterranean coast.

Families hoping to imitate Peter Mayle and buy a house in Provence now need to pay an average of Fr1.4 million (£142,850) — making it the most expensive rural destination in France. In the Dordogne, the magnet for so many British people that it now boasts cricket clubs and real ale, the trend is similar, according to the survey by the National Federation for Rural Development.

"A few years ago the price for a traditional farmhouse was about Fr100,000," said Maurice Lagarde, Deputy Mayor of Saint Alvére, a highly anglicised Dordogne village. "Now, you'd have to pay five times that amount, if you can find a property. But I do not know of any farmhouses for sale around here any more," he said. "They have all been bought up by the Dutch and the British. In truth, if you want to buy in this area you have to go for a property that has been renovated and you're going to pay more than Fr1 million."

Although many locals have been forced out by the rising prices, those that remain say they feel no resentment towards newcomers. "There is a good atmosphere here and everyone gets on well together," said M Lagarde.

Muriel Cartonier, the local café owner, said: "The English have relaunched the economy here."

Much the same is true in Normandy, where the average cost of a rural house has climbed to Fr402,000, and in the foothills of the Pyrenees — Tony Blair's annual holiday destination. Although this is France's poorest region, holiday homes sell for almost Fr400,000, says the survey.

The Federation also says the cost of a year in Provence, or anywhere else, is no longer cheap. Taxes, insurance and maintenance on rural houses reach an average annual total of Fr18,000, and buyers are charged at least Fr6,000 to have isolated properties linked to the electricity mains.

It adds that people looking for a bargain will need to move into central regions, such as the Creuse and the Auvergne, where farmhouses still cost less than Fr200,000.

They may also consider Cannes, where the average cost of a flat has fallen to Fr606,000 and is still sliding. Traffic jams, crowded beaches and overpriced restaurants are depressing property prices along the Riviera.

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Villagers protect grave of Rhodes

Harare: A radical black empowerment organisation that threatened to dig up the grave of Cecil Rhodes, the founder of Rhodesia, and toss his remains into the Zambezi River, has incurred the wrath of the country's Ndebele people, who revere him.

Lawrence Chikaradzira, the head of Sangano Munhumutapa, vowed recently he would cleanse the hills of Matobo in southwestern Zimbabwe, of Rhodes' remains. He said the grave was a mockery to the traditional importance of the area, which also holds the most significant religious shrine of the Ndebele nation and the grave of its founder, Mzilikazi. But villagers in the area, quoted by the independent Sunday Standard, yesterday warned Chikaradzira they would do all in their power to protect Rhodes' grave and bring offenders to justice.

Pakistan sends bombing suspect back to Nairobi

A KEY suspect in the bombings of two United States embassies in East Africa ten days ago arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, for questioning yesterday morning. The man, apprehended in Pakistan on the day of the terrorist attacks which killed more than 250 people, had been trying to get into Afghanistan.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry statement said: "The suspect, an Arab by the name of Mohammad Saïd, Howaida, was interrogated by our concerned agencies and, on satisfaction about his involvement in these terrorist acts, he was sent back to Nairobi and handed over to the Kenyan authorities for appropriate action under their law."

Mr Howaida, 32, had been arrested for travelling on forged documents at Karachi airport on August 7 after arrival on a Pakistan International Airlines flight from Nairobi. Short, slim and clean-shaven, he was reportedly trying to get to Afghanistan. He was inter-

Arrested Arab claims that the bombmakers have fled to Afghanistan, report David Orr and Zahid Hussain

rogated by Pakistani military intelligence. According to official sources he confessed to carrying out attacks on American embassies. He allegedly received help in Kenya from sympathisers linked with Egyptian Islamic Jihad organisations. Pakistani investigators were also trying to find out whether Mr Howaida had any links with Pakistani Islamic groups.

American investigators who arrived in Pakistan last week, were not allowed to meet the suspect, the authorities deciding to fly him to Nairobi rather than turn him over to US officials.

Pakistan government sources believe five of his accomplices, who arrived in Karachi on the same Nairobi flight, may have escaped to Afghanistan. The suspects, all Arabs, left Nairobi hours before the bomb ripped through the US Embassy.

will have grounds for claiming jurisdiction.

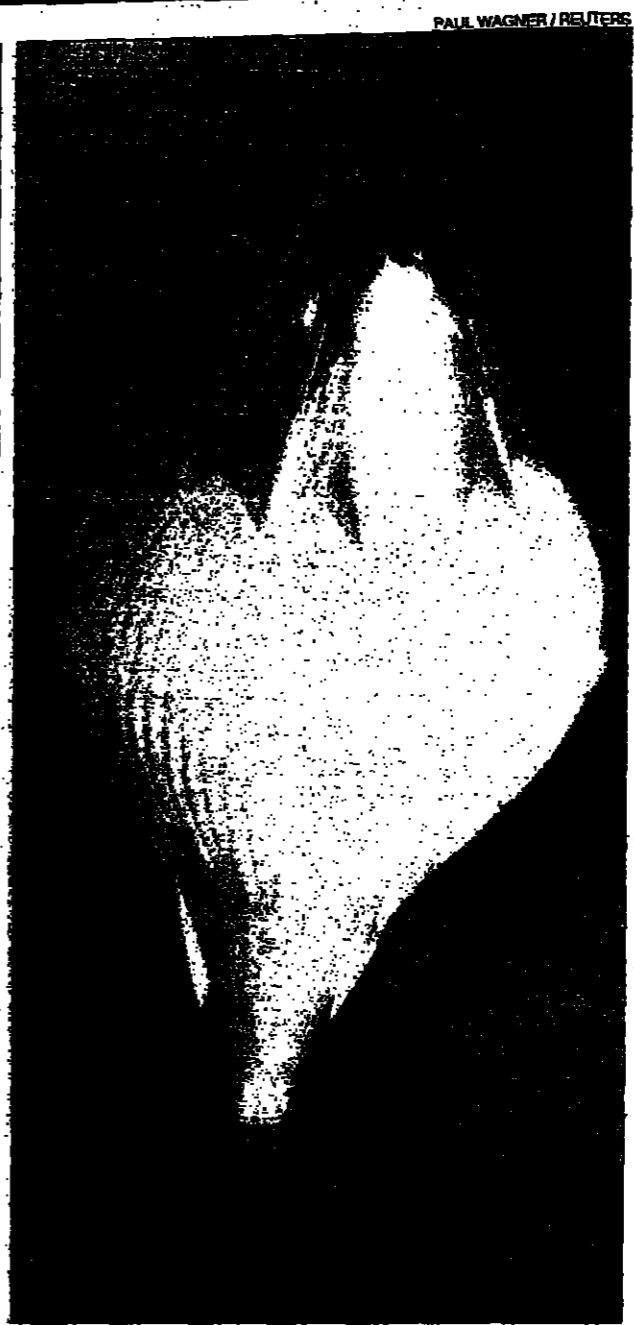
Mr Howaida, probably not his real name, is believed to have told the Pakistani authorities that two men who built the explosive used in the bombings had crossed into Afghanistan. According to one source, he said he had been living in Kenya for three years and had been married to a Kenyan citizen of Arab origin. Investigators suspect a link between Mr Howaida and the billionaire Islamic terrorist Osama bin Laden, resident in Afghanistan for the past two years. The world's most wanted terrorist, Bin Laden recent-

ly declared Americans "very easy targets".

Mulla Omar, head of the Taliban Islamic movement, has defended Mr Bin Laden, saying he was not responsible for the embassy bomb attack. "How can a man living as a refugee in Afghanistan be responsible for bomb explosions in distant Africa," he declared. However, Taliban leaders may now face growing pressure from the United States to hand Mr Bin Laden over to them.

According to some reports, the Saudi dissident lives under heavy guard and changes his Afghan hideout frequently. A number of people have been arrested in Kenya and Tanzania, but they are not thought to be prime suspects. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, is expected to visit Dar es Salaam, in Tanzania, and Nairobi soon, probably tomorrow.

All across Kenya, grieving relatives of the Nairobi bomb victims were yesterday attending funerals in their home rural communities.



Solo Spirit passing over Charleville in Queensland



Fossett feared to have ditched in the Pacific

FROM REUTERS IN ST LOUIS
STEVE Fossett, the American balloonist, lost contact with his control centre while over the South Pacific yesterday, and his emergency radio beacon was activated, but it was not immediately clear if he had gone down in the water. The Coast Guard has been alerted, a spokeswoman at his control centre at Washington University in St Louis said. The 54-year-old millionaire stockbroker from Chicago was in the tenth day of his attempt to be the first to fly around the world non-stop in his balloon, Solo Spirit. His last reported position was 500 miles northwest of New Caledonia and about the same distance from the Australian coast. His capsule is designed to float and carries a four-person life raft. This is Mr Fossett's fourth attempt at the solo flight without stopping — the first three were in the Northern Hemisphere — and it is the closest he has come to achieving his dream. (Reuters)

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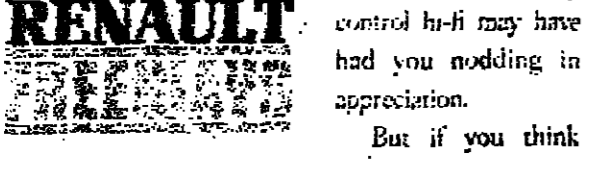
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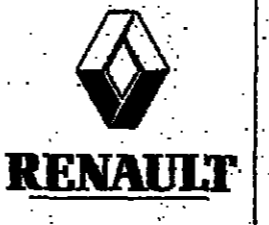
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Clinton faces perilous U-turn

The President, who has added to his lawyers' worries by being depressed, is uncertain of today's tactics, writes Bronwen Maddox

President Clinton is set to admit to an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky in his testimony to the grand jury this afternoon, according to reports yesterday. But during the agonising weekend countdown to today's high-stakes confrontation — the most serious crisis of Mr Clinton's troubled political career — he was reported to be uncertain about the tactics to deploy in court today, and in the even more crucial court of public opinion.

Yesterday, in a steamy Washington observed for the summer break, Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, and his staff were poring over eight minutes of transcripts from 75 witnesses, trying to weave the net of questions into a fine enough mesh to catch the President.

Six blocks to the west on Pennsylvania Avenue, Mr Clinton and his lawyers have been trying to thrash out the vocabulary of a U-turn. He is seeking the words to acknowledge a relationship or encounters with the young trainee without being charged with perjury for having denied the relationship on oath, according to two unnamed advisers.

Signs emerged yesterday that the President was depressed and angry. His lawyer, David Kendall, has found it hard to prepare him for the interrogation because Mr Clinton has become so withdrawn, according to reports. On Thursday his lawyers could not get access until after 5pm the next day, he spent the evening playing cards and the word game Boggle with friends. On Saturday, his lawyers won five hours of his time — interrupted when he insisted on jogging, putting golfballs on the White House lawn, and playing "tech" with his Labrador Buddy.

Mr Kendall did not directly deny the torrent of reports that the President was about to change his story that he had no sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky. But he complained yesterday that those accounts which have cited unnamed presidential aides and lawyers contained much "groundless speculation". He said: "The truth is the truth. And that's how the President will testify."

Opinion polls show that most Americans believe Mr Clinton had some form of sex with Ms Lewinsky, but that they would be delighted to put the saga in the past. A *Newsweek* poll yesterday found that only 24 per cent say that they will think worse of Mr Clinton if he admits a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

White House advisers are well aware of precedents for the sudden collapse of public support for a President. Richard Nixon saw Watergate more than halve his approval ratings, while Ronald Reagan's was cut by a third during the Iran-Contra scandal. Even for a man dubbed the Comeback Kid, today's interrogation by Mr Starr in the White House, relayed by live video link to the grand jury, presents terrible perils.

If Mr Clinton does acknowledge some sort of affair, he will be relying on Mr Starr not to humiliate him by asking further detailed questions about sexual acts. He could stall such interrogation with a protest that his privacy was being invaded, but the public might take a dim view, given that he pledged earlier this month to testify "completely and truthfully".

The White House is also hoping that Mr Starr and senior Republicans would not abuse their victory by "dragging the body around the arena" and charging him with perjury for denying the affair on oath in the Paula Jones civil case in January.

Mr Clinton was also trying to decide whether to make a television appeal to Americans tonight.

If Mr Clinton admits to an affair, he will be depending on his formidable ability to charm his public. Yet legal experts point out that his confidence in his charm is partly to blame for his plight today. It led him to agree to testify despite the passionate objections of his lawyers, giving Mr Starr the incentive to clinch a deal with Ms Lewinsky for her co-operation — and to secure the dress said to bear traces of the President's semen.

Washington was joked yesterday that Mr Clinton was caught between a truck and a hard place.



Bill Clinton with Hillary: her support has been crucial in keeping the public behind the President

How is he going to tell Chelsea?

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

HOW does Bill Clinton tell his 18-year-old daughter Chelsea that he enjoyed oral sex with a girl only four years older than her? If Mr Clinton did have an affair with Monica Lewinsky, and is about to admit at least part of the truth, the most painful aspect may be explaining himself to his family.

In January, when the affair allegations first broke, Mr Clinton called Chelsea at Stanford University to assure her the stories were manufactured by his political opponents. That is the line he and Hillary have taken since she was six and

the 25-year-old former trainee reportedly says she had oral sex with Mr Clinton at least a dozen times in a room behind the Oval Office.

Hillary Clinton has continued to play a central role in scripting her husband's response to the deepening crisis. Her demonstration of support is seen as crucial in keeping people on his side.

But Mr Clinton has not told her as much as he has told his lawyers, according to reports yesterday. Their relationship and support are based partly on the principle "don't ask, don't tell", one adviser is quoted as saying. "She knows but she doesn't know," says *The Washington Post*.



Now a request from a Bill in Arkansas

Facing the heat, page 17
Courting catastrophe, page 20

Witnesses to history must remain silent even decades later

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

TWENTY-THREE middle-aged Washington residents, most of them women, will today become the first grand jurors to observe a President giving testimony in a criminal investigation into his conduct. Using a live video link,

President Clinton will tell them his version of his relationship, if any, with Monica Lewinsky. His evidence will be heavily encrypted against would-be hackers and will be beamed from the historic Map Room of the White House to

the drab, unadorned Grand Jury Room 12 blocks away. The jurors' identities are secret, but they reflect the racial make-up of America's capital. There are 12 black and six white women and two black and three white men. Their average age is 50. Prosecutors normally charge suspects if a majority

of grand jurors vote to do so. But this case is navigating uncharted legal waters. Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, apparently accepts that his grand jurors can do no more than recommend charges. Only Congress can impeach a President for "high crimes and misdemeanours". But Mr Starr will

include any jury recommendation in his report to Congress. Grand jury service can be tedious, up to two days a week for two years. Most grand jurors are paid for missed work and can also claim up to \$50 (£30) a day. One earlier witness in the Clinton case said jurors ate muffins, poured coffee and turned

WORLD IN BRIEF

Jericho curfew as activist flees jail

Jerusalem: Palestinian police imposed a curfew on Jericho yesterday and set up roadblocks and conducted house-to-house searches in the West Bank for a leading Hamas activist who broke out of a Jericho jail (Ross Dunn writes.) Israeli soldiers joined the massive manhunt in areas of the territory under their control for Imad Awadallah, considered to be one of the top four members of the Hamas underground military wing.

Awadallah escaped on Saturday, four months after he was detained by Palestinian police on suspicion that he shot dead the Hamas master bomber, Muhyideen al-Sharif, in March as part of an internal power struggle.

Rebels lose Kosovo town

Junik, Serbia: Serb forces have overrun this Kosovo hill town near the Albanian border, ousting separatist rebels from one of their last strongholds, police told reporters as they escorted them to the area. Junik had been the key conduit for gun-running from Albania and was the venue for the Kosovo Liberation Army's emergence into the world spotlight. Police Colonel Bozidar Filic said that Junik, which had been under siege for two weeks, fell early yesterday morning and was under Serbian police control. There were said to have been no civilian casualties in the operation to take the town. (Reuters)

Climbing accident charges

Albertville: Three climbers were charged after a cave explorer suffered serious head injuries in an accident when his safety cord was allegedly cut, judicial sources said. The French explorer was descending a cliff in the French Alps earlier this month when the safety rope, which he had installed earlier to access caves, broke. The three climbers, aged 18, 19 and 20, who were at the top of the cliff at the time, have been in custody since Friday. They have not been named. It is thought rivalry between cave explorers and climbers may be behind the alleged attack. (AFP)

King cedes sacking power

Amman: King Hussein of Jordan, right, who is being treated for cancer in the United States, has for the first time in his country's history handed over the power to hire and fire ministers to his brother, Crown Prince Hassan. The decree now breaks with tradition by giving the Crown Prince the power to make changes in the Government, while reserving the power to declare war and sign peace treaties solely for the King. (AFP)



24 die in coalmine blast

Kiev: An apparent fire-damp gas explosion in a coalmine in the Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine left 24 miners dead and four injured, a local official said. The 28 miners were working at a depth of 2,000ft when the blast occurred. The injured miners suffered extensive burns, but were not in a life-threatening condition. The exact cause of the explosion is not yet known. Fire-damp is an inflammable gas made up of methane which builds up in coalmines and, when mixed with air, explodes on contact with a naked flame. (AFP)

Massacre over stolen geese

Beijing: A farmer in northwestern China hacked nine people to death with an axe in a dispute over ten stolen geese, the *Southern Weekend* said. Three other people were injured. The oldest victim was aged 71, and the youngest a girl of four months. The farmer, Yang Mingxin, 39, attempted suicide by drinking insecticide and hanging himself after the massacre, but was taken to hospital and survived. (Reuters)

I'll have a squid each way

Tokyo: The tiny village of Kazamamura on the northern tip of Japan's main island has introduced squid racing in an attempt to attract tourists. Purters can back regular starters with names like Squid Emperor, Squid Boy, and Squid Brian — named after famous equine counterparts — to swim in the 66ft dash, with the winner getting up to £13 of local delicacies. The squid race has been registered at the patent office. (AFP)



Rock music veteran Pete Townshend, right, joined fellow legends Joni Mitchell and Lou Reed at the weekend for a concert at the 1969 Woodstock site in Bethel, New York. The tribute festival, "A Day in the Garden", could not have been more different from the original in which Townshend, above, appeared with The Who. The fiftysomethings attending had all the mod cons, including espresso machines, portable toilets and cash machines.



Parents join hunt for backpacker

Sydney: The parents of the British backpacker Celena Bridge, missing for more than a month, arrived in Australia last night to help in a search which involved more than 70 people at the weekend (Roger Maynard writes).

Beth and Lionel Bridge, from London, were met by police at Brisbane airport and will appeal for information about their daughter's whereabouts at a city press conference this morning. Celena, 26, who has an environmental science degree, had been living near Carlisle before leaving for a backpacking holiday in Australia on May 6.

Police were alerted last week when her fiancé, Jonathan Webb, who arrived in Brisbane last Sunday, said she had failed to meet him, as arranged, at the airport.

Police and emergency service workers spent the week-

America's fatties refuse to stomach any lean cuisine

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN SANTA MONICA

"LIFE is too short for self-hated and celery sticks," yelled the speaker with bright pink hair and the word "Fatso" emblazoned on her T-shirt. "We have no choice but to speak out against our banishment from society. We are here, we are spheres, we are fat, that's that."

Most of those who attended the first "Million Pound March" at the weekend were fat, and apparently it was acceptable to say so. "Fat is not a four-letter word," one placard pointed out encouragingly. "Fat is sexy," said another.

Some 200 members of America's militant "size acceptance movement" gathered in a park overlooking the Pacific, yards from a beachfront jogging path known as a mecca for some of the world's most expensively toned and slender bodies.

They did not march anywhere, listening and applauding instead as activists railed against what was described as a \$33 billion (£20 billion) a year weight-loss industry that aims to make fat people thin rather than healthy.

Fat people are America's last oppressed minority, declared a spokesman from a fat gay men's advocacy group called Girth and Mirrh. His audience cheered, though government definitions of obesity have put fat people here in a majority of 55 per cent. More than 90 million Americans remain seriously overweight.

This was not an event at which the Duchess of York would have been welcome in her role as a Weightwatchers' spokeswoman. "We're fat, we are mean, we don't eat lean cuisine," chanted the heavy hitters of fat pride under a banner that read "Don't diet — be happy".

"Humour has been used against us for so long," said Sally Smith, director of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance and organiser of the "march". "This time we wanted to be the ones using it."

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Empty planet □ Pigeon fanciers □ Woken satellite Martian life in doubt

TWO years ago, scientists from Nasa's Johnson Space Centre, the US space agency, shocked the world by announcing that they had found evidence of life in a meteorite from Mars. President Clinton hailed the discovery as stunning: the late Carl Sagan, not noted for understatement, called it a possible turning point in history.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

must have grown at temperatures greater than 120C, too hot for life. What is more, similar structures have been found on meteorites originating from the Moon, which nobody believes harbours life.

"We'll know for sure in two years or so," promised one member of the team, Dr Everett Gibson. Two years later, do we know for sure? We do not.

But the bulk of the evidence seems to be stacking up against the claims. The most recent contribution, from three scientists at the University of Hawaii, shows that the carbonates in the Martian meteorite formed at too high a temperature to have been produced by a living organism.

Dr Ed Scott and colleagues report in *Meteoritics and Planetary Science* that the disc-shaped carbonates in meteorite ALH 84001 grew in fractures in the rock from a hot fluid that was present when the rock suffered an impact. "Our study should help to resolve the controversy over the formation temperature of the carbonates," says Dr Scott. "We conclude that the existing carbonates formed at high temperatures by impact heating of carbonates that had formed earlier at lower temperatures in pores between crystals."

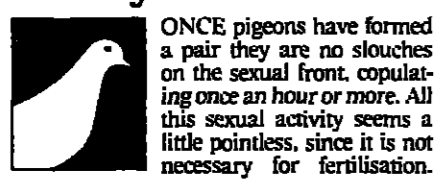
In the same journal another team, led by Dr John Bradley of Georgia Institute of Technology, examined the worm-like structures originally identified as fossilised bacteria. Using transmission electron microscopy, they conclude that the structures grew by epitaxy — the ordered growth of one crystal layer upon another. This means that the structures

Dr Bradley knows exactly where he stands. "Early scepticism has evolved into international consensus among meteoritists and planetary scientists, with the exception of the JSC team, that this rock does not contain Martian microfossils," he says. "I do not know of a single other individual who believes it at this point."

So far the JSC team has refused to admit it was wrong, but Dr Richard Zare, of Stanford University, a key member of the team, agrees that the debate is bogged down. "Everyone was hopeful that it would take just a short time to prove," he says. "We have seen two years go by. I don't know of anyone who has changed their opinion."

As Dr Bradley points out, there are two questions at issue here: whether there is a possibility of life on Mars, and whether this particular meteorite provides evidence of it. The paradox is that while doubts about the meteorite have tended to multiply, opinion on the wider question of Martian life is now more positive than ever before. This is because of strong evidence from the Mars Pathfinder mission that Mars had water in the past, even if it is mostly dry today. With water, life of some sort becomes a strong possibility.

A high sex drive is strictly for the birds



ONCE pigeons have formed a pair they are no slouches on the sexual front, copulating once an hour or more. All this sexual activity seems a little pointless, since it is not necessary for fertilisation.

And in pigeons it is the female, not the male, who initiates sex. Seeking to explain what the female gains, Claire Lovell-Mansbridge and Tim Birkhead, of Sheffield University, watched 21 pairs at a dovecote in Derbyshire during three seasons.

They found that the number of times the pairs copulated was correlated with how close together they perched in the dovecote. During the fertile period, males spent 90 per cent of the time within 35ft of their mates and most of the time were no more than a few feet away. This discouraged other males from taking advantage of the female.

They conclude, in *Animal Behaviour*, that females who encourage regular mating are more closely guarded by their mates. This prevents harassment by other males.

Satellite comes in from the cold

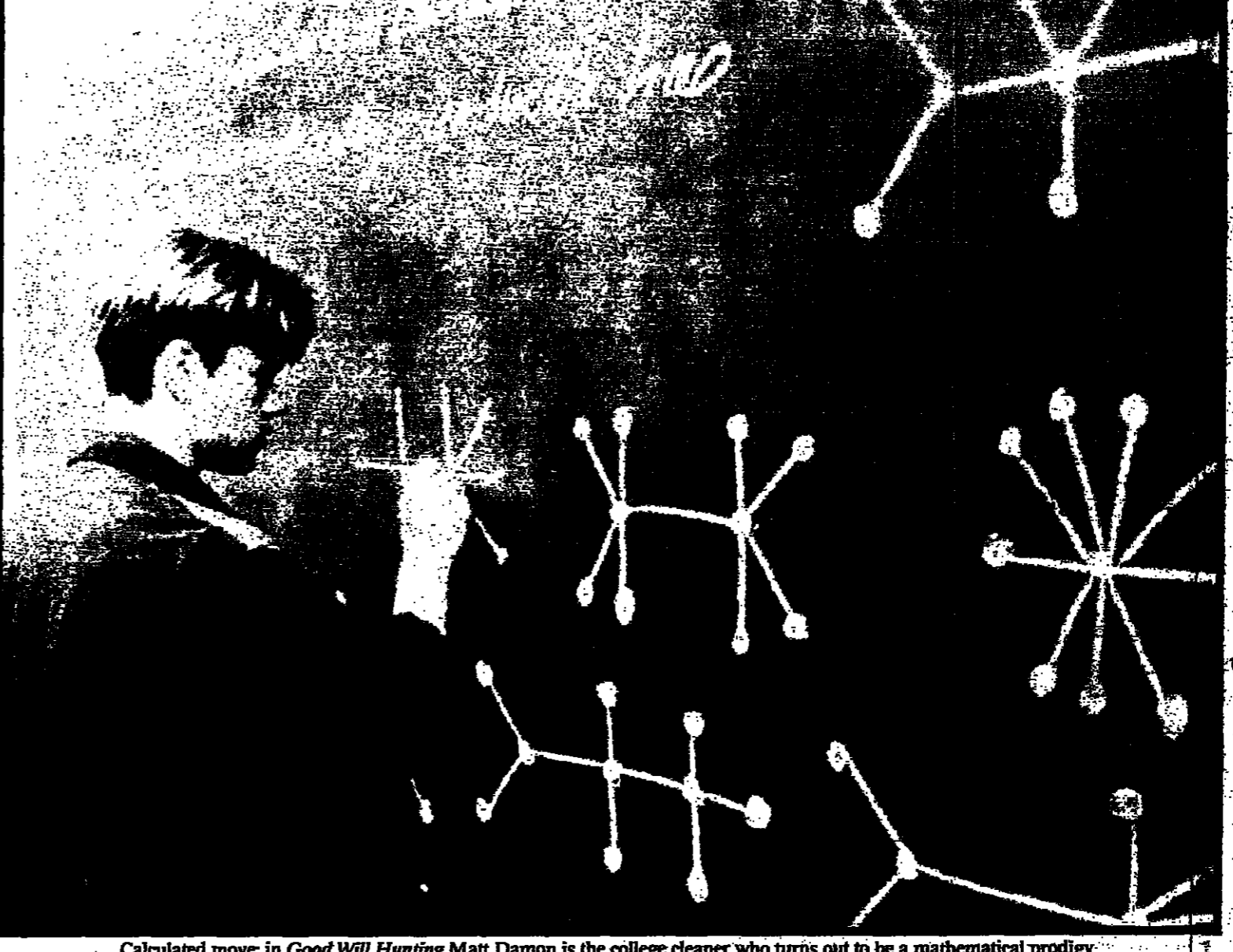


SILENT for the past six weeks, the \$1 billion satellite Soho has come back to life for the first time since it started spinning in deep space on June 25. The good news came after a few garbled signals received on August 2. Commands were then sent, instructing the satellite's solar arrays to start recharging one of the batteries, all of which were flat. Ten hours later, full communication was re-established. However, to conserve power it lasted only a minute.

In that time Soho, a joint European-American project to study the Sun, sent seven full sets of data about the state of the satellite and its instruments. "It's a little bit chilly," says Francis Vandembussche of the European Space Agency, "but conditions on board are as good as we expected them to be."

The chances are that the hydrazine fuel is at least partly frozen, so that the next step will be to try to thaw it by diverting power to the heaters. Once that happens, it may be possible to use the engines to regain control.

Marcus du Sautoy looks at Britain's entries for the mathematical world cup



Calculated move: in *Good Will Hunting* Matt Damon is the college cleaner who turns out to be a mathematical prodigy

Who's No 1 in maths?

IF you were going to nominate someone for the Nobel Prize in mathematics, your first choice would probably be the British mathematician Andrew Wiles. He famously solved Fermat's Last Theorem, a seemingly simple riddle that had confounded experts for more than three centuries and recently became the subject of a bestseller. But there are two convincing reasons why Professor Wiles, now based at Princeton University, will not be receiving such a prize.

The first is that there is no such award. Although Alfred Nobel granted physics and chemistry with prizes, he left out mathematics. But the discipline does have an equivalent accolade: the Fields Medals.

Unlike Nobel prizes, which are often awarded by old men to old men, Fields Medals are bestowed only on mathematicians under 40. Wiles is 45. So, controversially, when the latest round of winners is announced tomorrow, his name will not be among them. The age limit might appear to reinforce the commonly held belief that most mathematicians do their best work before 40 anyway. However, the founder of the prize, a Canadian mathematician called John Charles Fields, was determined that the prize should encourage young winners to future achievements rather than just reward mathematicians for greatness already achieved.

Sadly, Fields died four years before the first prizes bearing his name were awarded in 1936. To be decorated with a Fields Medal is the highest honour a professional mathematician can aspire to. The solid gold medals, featuring the face of the Greek mathematician Archimedes, are inscribed in Latin with the grand motto "To transcend human limitations and master the universe". They even have a starring role in the film *Good Will Hunting*, in which Matt Damon stars as a mathematical prodigy. In fact, *Good Will Hunting* has probably done more than any mathematics film to publicise their existence.

Like the World Cup, the medals are awarded every four years at the opening ceremony of the ICM, the International Congress of Mathematics. For this reason, up to four medals can be given out on any occasion. Four years ago in Zurich, it was France's year when the nation picked up two. Tomorrow ICM '98 will kick off in Berlin and there are strong hopes that, although the football team failed to live up to expectations, it will be a golden year for England's mathematicians.

So who are the Michael Owens of English mathematics? Although Wiles failed to make the cut this year, his student Richard Taylor, 36, is one of our leading lights in

number theory. Outside of mathematical circles, Professor Taylor is best known for helping Wiles to fill part of a gap in the proof of Fermat's Last Theorem. However, this is but a small part of his contribution to number theory.

Educated at Cambridge and now at Harvard University, Taylor works on the theory of elliptic curves. These were the key to unlocking Fermat's secrets and promise answers to many of the mysteries of what makes numbers tick. Fermat, rather than an end, is just a beginning of a huge project called the Langlands Programme. It's true: this grand theory will connect the study of numbers and the world of symmetry. Taylor is one of the key players in bridging these two worlds.

Also at Harvard is another of England's mathematical stars, Peter Kronheimer. Educated at Oxford, Professor Kronheimer was a student of one of the four previous British Fields Medalists, Sir Michael Atiyah. At 35, Kronheimer is one of the leading figures in the exploration of the world of four dimensions. Until 15 years ago, such exploration was generally left to *Star Trek*. However our last Fields

Medal winner, Professor Simon Donaldson of Oxford University, won his prize for discovering the mathematical equivalent of magic glasses that we can use to peer into four dimensions.

If four dimensions isn't complicated enough, then Richard Borcherds' achievements for taming a monstrous beast in 196,883-dimensional space are even more mind-blowing. Professor Borcherds, 38, is a Royal Society Professor at Cambridge and was a student of the colourful Professor John Conway, one of the key architects in the discovery during the last decade of the mathematician's Periodic Table of symmetry, a list of the building blocks from which all symmetries can be built. Some of these atoms of symmetry are quite simple, like the symmetries of a 50 pence coin. Others are harder to comprehend. The Monster, a symmetrical snowflake that lives in 196,883-dimensional space, has more symmetries than the Sun has atoms.

One big excitement for mathematicians is how often connections pop up between bits of mathematics that, at first, look unrelated. Hidden in this Monster, Conway noticed

some numbers he had seen before, not in the world of symmetry, but in the arithmetical world of Wiles and Taylor. Conway christened this coincidence Monstrous Moonshine because the numbers characteristic to one realm were reflected in another.

But it was Borcherds who was able to offer an explanation of how these two worlds were connected. In so doing he has gone on to develop the tools to prove a diverse range of results from classical identities in number theory to providing the rigorous foundations which are needed by quantum physicists.

His colleague at Cambridge, Timothy Gowers, 34, also deals in symmetry — the lack of it. Professor Gowers perhaps takes the biscuit for spacey living. His is the world of infinite-dimensional space. Gowers has made his mark by constructing shapes in infinite dimensional space that possess unexpected properties. For the first time, he found a method of refuting several famous conjectures posed in the 1920s by the Polish mathematician Stefan Banach.

Banach predicted that a certain class of objects in infinite dimensional space would have a great deal of symmetry. However, Gowers managed to construct objects that from one angle looked nice and smooth but when moved could never fit back into their original outline, unlike a 10 pence piece.

Gowers' insights for the construction of these objects come from the theory of combinatorics, the same area for which Will Hunting could have won his Fields Medal. But he preferred to forgo medals, and chose the girl, in true Hollywood style. Tomorrow, in the Oscars of mathematics, we will find out those mathematicians who, unlike Will Hunting, will be rewarded for having followed their mathematical passions.

Dr Marcus du Sautoy is a Royal Society Research Fellow at the Department of Pure Mathematics in Cambridge and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Medal men? Richard Borcherds (top left); Timothy Gowers; Peter Kronheimer (bottom left); Richard Taylor

Smarter than the average mollusc

OCTOPUSES are known more for their feelers than for their feelings. But biologists have long suspected that when it comes to intelligence, they stand head and tentacles above their fellow molluscs — such as snails and clams. Now these lovely creatures have been granted personalities, too, *Anjana Ahuja writes*.

Jennifer Mather, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at Lethbridge University in Canada, suggested at a recent conference of the Animal Behaviour Society that her eight-limbed charges fall into three personality types — passive, aggressive and paranoid.

She looked at 44 red octopuses, a small species found near Seattle, noting how each octopus reacted to several scenarios, such as somebody opening its tank, how eagerly it pounced on a hapless crab dropped in as prey, and how it responded to the touch of a bristly brush.

Several specimens attacked the brush and grabbed the crab immediately — these were labelled aggressive. Others shied away from the brush and, when offered a crab, would wait until they were alone, usually in the evening, before devouring it. These were deemed to be passive. The last group of animals exhibited paranoia to any form of interference — they squirted out a burst of ink and then shot away. "We feel strongly that octopuses have personalities," she told *The New York Times*.

She also said that they engage in "play behaviour", previously thought to be the preserve of more complex species such as mammals. For exam-

ple, she observed one octopus taking a bottle and floating it along the current in its tank. Once the bottle reached the end of the tank, the octopus swam over, retrieved its plying and sent it along the current again. "If that's not play behaviour, I don't know what is," Professor Mather said.

Another intriguing piece of evidence in support of octopus intelligence is the recent discovery of a species that can imitate other marine creatures. Mimic octopuses, as they are called, have a diverse reper-

toire — they can take on the appearance of a sea snake, a giant crab, a flounder or even a stingray. Their costume changes are done both to hide from predators and as a sneaky hunting strategy.

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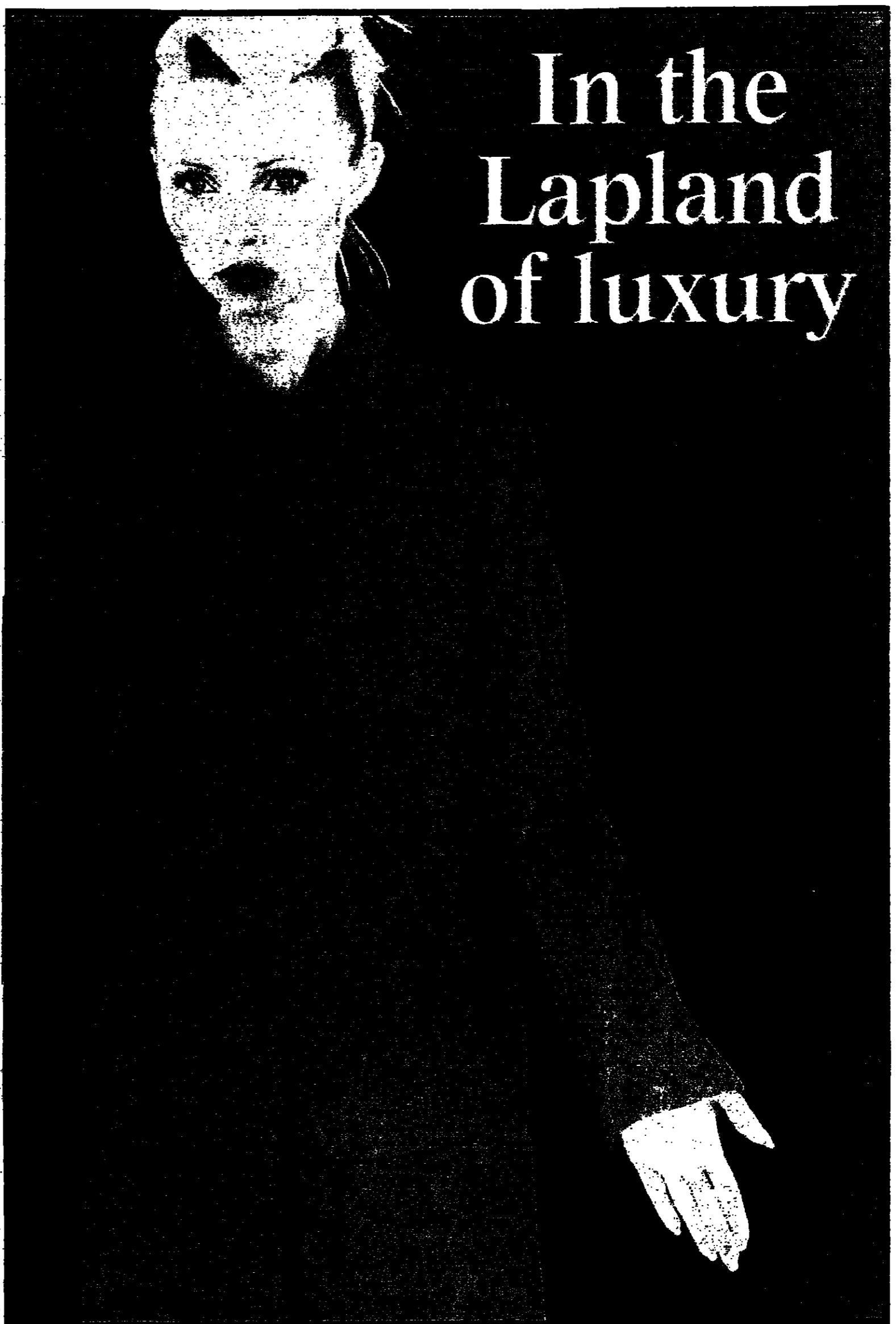
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In the Lapland of luxury



Our winter lives are filled with radiators, microwaved food, heated cars and sweaty trains. With the exception of those people in interior design magazines who suddenly uproot from Notting Hill to the middle of Wales and begin making their own Shaker furniture, most people see little change in their environment. Fashion is another thing altogether.

Two years ago it was OK to wear bare legs in the snow; this winter we'll all be in Lapland. I had thought that this was just a Caultier aberration (his autumn/winter '98 show was full of Scandinavian bobble hats and chuffie coats), but no, there's the elfin model Audrey Marnay gazing out of the glossies from behind a

Grace Bradberry, Style Editor, looks at designer trends for sumptuous tribal chic

snowy tree. Her cheeks are conspicuously rouged and above her head is a bird's nest. She is wearing a grey flannel dress with lace bodice by Sportmax (it is a Sportmax advert). An earthy tribal chic has arrived and it is time to head for the forest in a long tweed skirt and an enormous tree-protector's sweater (mohair, of course).

Anyway, the new season is coming — at least, it is in the mad calendar of shopping — and the lie of the land has changed significantly. It is as if the miniskirt never happened. Instead what we

have is either a long, languid silhouette or a sculptural/architectural look. The mood swings between bohemian and austere, between urban and rustic, while decoration is either a question of texture, or about graphic embroidery and applique.

To make it simpler we've defined a few of the new directions and picked out a handful of designer pieces that are already defining the new season: If there's one overriding theme, it's luxury. Even the high street is doing cashmere these days, so designers have felt the need to go one better.

draping swaths of the stuff around the hips to create long, all-enveloping skirts.

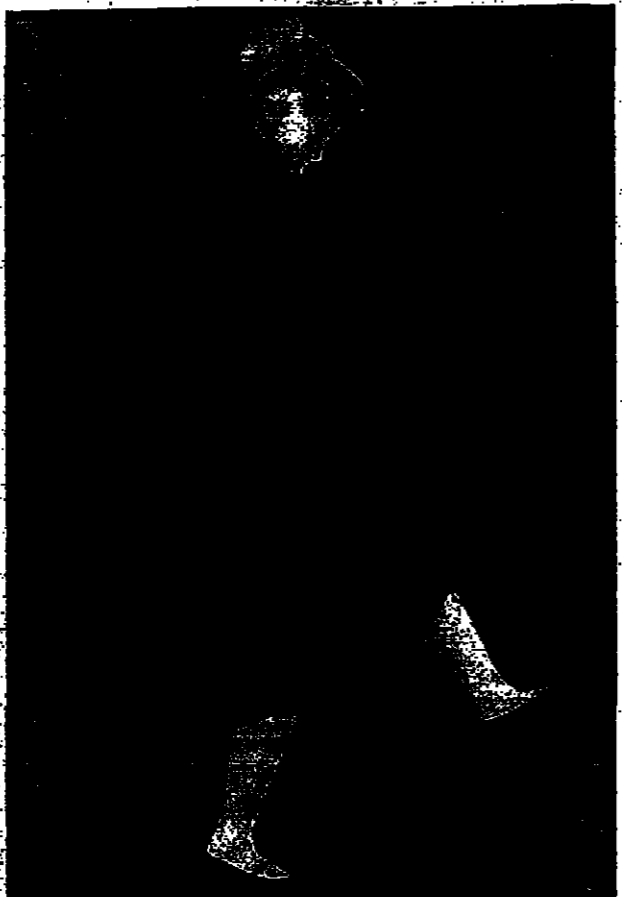
From Edwardian ankle-skimming lines to A-lines that stop at the calf, long is the only length to be seen in this winter. You can layer it for that folklore look, or go for a more austere combination of white shirt and long black or grey skirt, as seen at Chanel and Paul Smith.

Indeed, the new classics are the simple long skirt and perfect shirt, a no-fuss look that will work in the office. Loosely pleated skirts present more of a challenge, but worn with a

large mohair sweater they are the very reverse of last season's prim Miss Brodie styles.

Every season has a colour, and this time it's red. Even Giorgio Armani, the king of the neutral, embraced it, as did Alexander McQueen, with his flaming Joan of Arc show. Prada's deconstructed coat is already one of the best-known designs of the season. But buying the most identifiable pieces is not always the best move. Sonja Nuttall's red beaded silk georgene dress screams individualism rather than catwalk slavery.

For bohemian chic you can't beat the kimono styles. Clements Ribeiro's is the ultimate in hippie luxe, and even Dolce & Gabbana's gobsmacking glamour has gone a little bit more artistic than before.



Main picture: red cashmere and wool panel coat, £265, by Prada, 43-45 Sloane Street, SW1; 0171-235 0006

Top left: hand-painted silk dress, £3,210, and jewelled stilettos, from £450, all by Dolce & Gabbana, 175 Sloane Street, SW1; 0171-235 0335. Necklaces, £39.95, from Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1

Bottom left: coat, £1,716, by Clements Ribeiro, from Harrods, London SW1; 0171-409 7719

Below left: mohair jumper, £269, leather pleated skirt, £799, both by Nicole Farhi, 158 New Bond Street, W1; 0171-499 8368. Shoes, £45, by Ravel

Below right: shirt, £68, wool skirt, £144, by Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti, 205-206 Sloane Street, SW1; 0171-235 2349

Photographer: JOHN SWANNELL
Stylist: Deborah Brett
Hair: Flavio Abbas at Michaeljohn Management
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Is this the future for Britain?



The first of our five extracts from the debut novel by the former editor of *The Guardian*, Peter Preston, describes a Britain where the euro has replaced the pound and the prospects are gloomy

Tony Blair is history. The Falklands War is a distant memory for even the oldest. The Dome is just another dingy monument to politicians' egos. But, 30 years on, one thing has not changed: Europe is still the issue which dominates politics, the cause for which reputations are sacrificed and careers made.

New Labour's dream ended in familiar disillusion, but not before it saw off Mr Hague. A Tory government was, eventually, elected to pick up the pieces but is now finding it difficult to make things fit. The two men at the top, the technocratic Prime Minister Curtis Michaelson and his dogged lieutenant Rupert Warner, are no longer as close as they once were. And other traditional ties are fraying as well...

The new secretary Rupert Warner had picked for her singular gossip-quenching lack of any redeeming attraction was poised at the office door, pacing for his return. "Your sister called an hour ago," she said. "She hadn't got your mobile number and wanted to know how booked you were. Well, don't forget you've got the PM at eight."

smarted. His father and he had never been easy with each other. Captain James Hector Lionel Warner, 2 Para, the medalled hero. Not much of a businessman. The hotel had gone belly-up. Then it was Captain Warner MC, Keeper of the Caravans, eker of a frugal living. But no bloody proud to take any of the help Rupert had offered.

Rupert got up, walked slowly through the maze of corridors from the Leader of the House's room towards New Palace Yard; then, coat collar turned up against the wind, across Whitehall and past the shivering policemen into 10 Downing Street.

The Prime Minister and Rupert Warner were not, in any true sense, friends. Michaelson had no friends. But they had been together for 20 years since one party conference night in Blackpool. It had been tipping down. Michaelson scuttled out of the Queen's Hotel shouting for a taxi and, as it splashed to a halt, a big man in a trench coat and porkpie hat appeared from the spray and opened the door. "I say," said Michaelson, squeaking. "I think that was mine."

He owned it. "Come over for the weekend," he'd say. "We've got the point-to-point in Foggy Bottom."

He was not really a country gentleman. The family came from Birstall, urban sprawl three miles north of Leicester. His grandfather had made socks and sweaters till the Poles and the Chinese took him apart. Rupert, with his easy smiles and natural courtesy, somehow became a toff, a character, a charmer. That charm got him to Oxford and a third in Geography — though not quite the Boat Race slot he'd coveted. A bit short of puff in the last half-mile, he would grin ruefully, and promise to train harder next time.

And they liked Jennifer, a foot shorter, seven stone lighter, and the smiling baby she carried to meetings. Politics became what he did. Westminster just happened. The blissful Boundary Commissioners' report that carved through Weymouth and ditched the Liberals just happened. The Michaelson opportunity — the death of Palmers, the bust-up, Labour's implosion, the need for a Tory leader who had kept his European powder dry — seemed merely to happen, too.



Right-hand man: Rupert Warner, the Tory leader of the House of Commons, who is a byword for traditional English decency

How to spot if Clinton telling the truth

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

CURTIS MICHAELSON, Prime Minister of Great Britain. A Tory technocrat who rose to the Premiership with no discernible strong views. He has become a passionate, though determined, Europhile. Contemptuous of **RUPERT WARNER**, Leader of the House of Commons and a shire Tory of undistinguished middle-class stock. No intellectual, and certainly no demagogue. Stolid decency, quiet patriotism and a distaste for show govern his character. He is married to **JENNY WARNER**, quango queen and part-time Tory wife. An ambitious professional partner who sticks with a husband whose usefulness has outlived his attraction, she is suspicious of **POLLY GURLEY**, a former civil servant turned Tory backbencher. Attractive but underestimated, ambitious without being ag-

gressive, Polly yearns to operate on a bigger stage and is helped in this ambition by **DAVE SIMMONS**, political counsellor at the US Embassy in London. He is a Southern gentleman with political nous. His capacity to come up with big ideas recommends him to **BILL ANGELL**, 47th President of the United States. A populist Republican from the Rockies, Bill's Italian heritage does not prevent him from cherishing a very special relationship with the UK. We find him first scattering his father's ashes in Italy and he subsequently makes way for **MARK YATE**, a senator from Maine who defeats a Hispanic opponent to become the big enchilada. A straightforward politician, Mark makes history when he turns to unfamiliar quarters in order to hold on to power.

seeing him, and it was pretty awful. He got very agitated about Europe. Said that we'd gone too far, that we were betrayers."

"Wonderful," said Michaelson, breaking his pencil and lobbing it into the basket. "Genius. Twenty years since the Queen died. Westminster Abbey running hot and cold with the rear-stained populace. Our bald little apology for a King doing his Runnymede add-on. And you want to hold a referendum over lunch. For God's sake, Rupert, put a sock in it."

in the grants stakes a few years ago. But somehow no tabloid, fretting over more privacy laws, had ever laid a finger on her. Nor did Rupert say a word. They were a team, a limited company. He was her passport to the life that she had carved out. He had settled for a steady, emotionless state and brought her a cup through into the study.

"I'm sorry," said Michaelson, "I can see you're not really up to thinking clearly. Why don't we cut this short and try again tomorrow? Say 1.45, just before Questions."

TOMORROW: Rupert Warner makes his final stand, and plucks up the courage to say "no" to Europe. Will the nation follow?

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هكذا من الرجل

How to spot if Clinton is telling the truth

As the President faces a Grand Jury, his self-presentation will be vital. **Grace Bradberry reports**

Later today, Bill Clinton will "voluntarily" testify by video link to a Grand Jury about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. The 23 jurors will remain in the courtroom but can submit questions through independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who will be in the room with the President. Unlike most Grand Jury witnesses, Clinton will be able to have his lawyers at his side. Ten days ago David Kendall, his lawyer, applied to an Arkansas judge for permission to view the videotape of the last time Mr Clinton gave evidence under oath — to lawyers representing Paula Jones.

It is not only the content but the manner of delivery that will have been analysed. Yet with his Southern drawl and media-savvy sincerity, how can Clinton possibly improve on his media skills? Should he decide to make a *mea culpa* speech, he ought to have the jury in tears — and you can bet he will be crying, too. This ability to produce intimacy before an audience of millions should stand him in good stead — but he will still need specialist advice. Here six experts suggest ways in which Clinton can convince the Grand Jury of his innocence — and how they can spot when he is lying.

Steven Kay works as a defence barrister. "The big difference between the American system and our own is that in England we're not allowed to coach witnesses. We can go through a client's account and then investigate that story, challenging it, but we can't put them through their acting paces, providing them with a line. Clinton's lawyers can coach him to some extent and they'll be looking to get the man in Clinton to come through — the character that best suits him, so that he's actually understood by the jury. It's not a case of making him into someone he's not, but of getting the features that people sympathise with — to show through — it's much easier to make a favourable decision in respect of someone you like. I think you can take it this will be a thoroughly rehearsed hearing, with all the material that Starr wants at his disposal, and Clinton would be better off putting his position frankly. If he's accused of lying he should just restate his argument and ignore the assertion by the advocate.

Philip Davis is a voice specialist and an occupational psychologist. "You can't entirely divorce the question of how someone sounds from what they're saying. I thought, for example, that when Clinton said 'I did not have sex with that woman,'

Someone who is the most powerful man in the Western world would be expected to deal properly with all the questions put to him. Catherine Bond works for Bond Solow, which trains members of the Metropolitan Police to be impressive witnesses for the prosecution. She is qualified as both an American attorney and an English solicitor. "It's very important that Clinton answers the question and then just stops. Prosecutors and defence barristers use silences to get people to say more than they really want to. If there is a silence, then he should simply sit back and wait. That would be a very powerful gesture and it would throw the pressure back on to the prosecutor. Clinton should also look serious throughout and he should never call Monica Lewinsky 'that woman' — it sounds quite nasty. In general I would get him to be more respectful towards the process when he's in front of the Grand Jury than he has been with the media. If the prosecutor accuses him of lying, he should deny it strongly, but not be rattled. It's one of the things we focus on with police officers because they're often not prepared for it. The jury will expect the President to be able to take the flack without flinching. If he's really up against the ropes then what might work for him is to put his hand up in that way he has and become terribly charming. Above all he should tell the truth if at all possible — it's much easier to remember than a lie."

Dr Peter Collett is a psychologist at Oxford University. The current theory about deception is that it's not so much contained in the body lan-

guage but more in the voice. I'm not sure I buy that because there are so many leakage signs of anxiety.

"Of course, you've then got to distinguish between lying and anxiety. There are several accepted signs that someone is lying. The thing about Clinton is that he's so well trained he doesn't do any of them. There are no comfort gestures. He's a very good macho performer and he has the slow, lumbering movements of authority. Fast movements are a sign of subordination. The tendency is always to believe someone who is in authority.

"Video link is to the President's advantage. I very much doubt that the jury will be allowed to view it in slow motion, so what we call micro-momentary expressions won't be come visible, which would be the disadvantage. What Clinton will be able to do is construct intimacy. If he has been advised to use it correctly, he'll do what Reagan was good at and create that 'Aw shucks, I'm talking to you' feeling."

Dr Richard Wiseman is an experimental psychologist based at the University of Hertfordshire. He is also a specialist in the psychology of deception. "The first thing I'd be looking for in Clinton's video would be slow response latency — the amount of time between the end of a question and the start of the response. Liars take longer. If he shifted around or maintained too much eye contact, I'd also be suspicious. Liars tend to overcompensate. The problem for the jury is that anyone with a high self-monitor, who's very conscious of the image they're giving, will know all these things.



Accuser and accused: Monica Lewinsky and the President

Miss Lewinsky "it sounded very artificial. So you have to gauge the possibility of what we would term non-verbal leakage. Sometimes when he speaks very slowly you can see his eyes darting about to gauge the response he's getting. A jury could pick up on something like that."



Feeling the heat: President Clinton prepares to speak at a fundraiser on a hot day in North Carolina. Today he faces his toughest ordeal yet

medium blue or even dark blue suit, crisp white shirt and a serious rather than a whimsical one. Clinton is known for his whimsical ties and they do make him appear modern, but for this occasion he needs to look like the head of the world's one remaining superpower. "He should resist any instinct to be in shirt sleeves. Although it would indicate that he has nothing to hide, it also shows a lack of respect for the legal process. Above all, he needs to get some colour into his face. He's become very pale and appears harried and beaten down by it. That screams tremendous guilt. If he could just get out into the sun for an afternoon and find from somewhere that 'Southern boy, lips curling at the corners' expression he'll do much better. Some blusher would help, but he should avoid applying fake tan so it leaves a white line at the collar — something which Tony Blair is occasionally guilty of."

Dr Richard Wiseman is an experimental psychologist based at the University of Hertfordshire. He is also a specialist in the psychology of deception. "The first thing I'd be looking for in Clinton's video would be slow response latency — the amount of time between the end of a question and the start of the response. Liars take longer. If he shifted around or maintained too much eye contact, I'd also be suspicious. Liars tend to overcompensate. The problem for the jury is that anyone with a high self-monitor, who's very conscious of the image they're giving, will know all these things.

"What you might get is a slight flicker of expression as the key question is asked — but you might not notice that until you replayed or froze the video. Another thing liars do is to distance themselves linguistically from situations. They don't use as many 'I's, he's and she's' as they might. I would advise Clinton to always say, 'I did whatever...' otherwise he could evoke suspicion. "He needs to develop a slow, even delivery, so that should he suddenly find himself being caught out he can find time to think while maintaining that pace. If you're going to lie, it helps if you can convince yourself that it's the truth. That's what happens with pathological liars — but I don't believe Clinton has that ability, and it would be very worrying if he had."

To embassy staff: use e-mail (stop) R. Cook

Helen Rumbelow wonders whether the mandarins will cope with the Internet

Stiff upper lips at the Foreign Office must have quivered yesterday at the news that the telegram is to be usurped by new technology. The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has ordered embassies abroad to use e-mail to inform mandarins back home of important events, rather than slower telegrams. The telegram from *Our Man Abroad* has long been an FO emblem. The first known example, sent from Paris in December 1852, recorded that "Galliard is arrested" — the subject's identity and crime are unknown. As well as marking falls of governments and civil wars, telegrams have also testified to personal friendships: the Macmillans told Jackie Kennedy that they were "numbed by the shock of Jack's death. Nothing we can say can console you".

Using telegrams for matters of great import is now absurd. They can take 24 hours between dictation and delivery, by which time London already knows about issues thanks to the media.

So how will the cream of the Civil Service cope with e-mail and the Internet? If the FO types are like other British executives, then a recent survey suggests we shouldn't expect too much. Andersen Consulting surveyed 1,700 senior executives worldwide about how they use information technology. It found that although 91 per cent of the British had access to the Net, 16 per cent never used it. More than double the proportion of American business leaders as British — 38 per cent against 17 per cent — use it every day, mostly to send e-mails and surf the World Wide Web. But hang on a second. What are those American executives really doing with their time? Embracing IT themselves means dealing with a flood of e-mail and spending hours seeking information. If this were presented as a huge post bag dumped on the desk, or a vast library, most managers would not hesitate to delegate to a junior staff member, freeing up their own time for the decisions they are paid so highly to make. But because mastering the Net is equated with efficiency and the cutting edge, American managers are doing tasks that are often inefficient and inappropriate to their business. The result? Torpor at the top of the management chain.

Dinty Moore, the author of *The Emperor's Virtual Clothes: The Naked Truth About the Internet*, says leaders are confused. "Searching the Net is a job like anything else. It may give a company a competitive edge, but it is a task you can delegate," she says. "Managers should use the best tool for the job, not necessarily the Net, and the best person, not necessarily themselves."

In essence, while IT can offer great advances, business should not overestimate what it can achieve. More important, it should not interfere with the art of delegation, at which the Civil Service is so adept. So even though telegrams at the FO have had their day, IT has its pitfalls, too. As ambassadors wrestle with in-boxes, out-boxes, attachments and junk mail, they may be well advised not to get too carried away.

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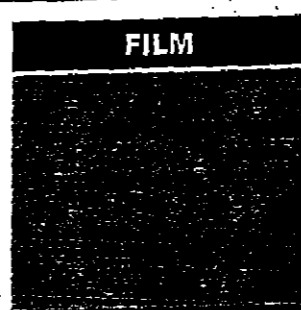
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THE TIMES ARTS



Tales

Masters of a universe

GALLERIES: Edinburgh pays homage to home-grown talent with a clutch of shows devoted to two artists. John Russell Taylor reports

The purpose of holding an international festival of the arts in Edinburgh has always been twofold: to bring the world to Scotland, and to present Scotland to the world. Sometimes, where exhibitions are concerned, the balance seemed to slip a little too far towards art brought in from outside, as against using the festival as a splendid showcase for arousing interest in and spreading knowledge of the home product. This year, at least, the balance slants largely the other way.



EDINBURGH 98

ing obsessively on his painting. He was prolific; nobody realised quite how prolific until after his death, when he left his entire estate to the Royal Scottish Academy, and the legacies discovered that his studio home was filled with hidden canvases, many laid flat under the carpet.

'After his death many hidden canvases were discovered laid flat under the carpet'

It must have something to do with the present tendency of exhibitions to travel in shoals. When there is a major show in a public gallery devoted to, say, Chagall or Patrick Heron, every dealer brings out from stock anything remotely relevant, and lesser public galleries put on shows concentrating on a particular phase or aspect of the big fish. This is just what has happened this year in Edinburgh to William Gillies, and just outside Edinburgh to S.J. Peplow.

Consequently there is plenty of material to draw from for the centenary shows, much of it conserved and framed for the first time and never before exhibited in public. At first glance there is a bewildering variety of styles and approaches among the more than 200 works on show. It must be said at once that Gillies comes through this overwhelming exposure with flying colours, where many might expect to find their failings and repetitions cruelly exposed. And even the extraordinary diversity gradually reduces itself to order if one can manage to ignore the arbitrary-seeming arrangement and bear in mind the underlying chronology.

Gillies himself is in some ways straightforward, and in some ways oddly mysterious, both as an artist and as a man. Personally he seems to have been an accessible and inspiring teacher and, at least within a tight set of his own close contemporaries, quite clubbable and outgoing. On the other hand, he was a confirmed bachelor who lived nearly all his life with his mother and sister, concentrat-

ing on his painting. He was prolific; nobody realised quite how prolific until after his death, when he left his entire estate to the Royal Scottish Academy, and the legacies discovered that his studio home was filled with hidden canvases, many laid flat under the carpet.

Throughout the Thirties and Forties he is painting light, fluent landscapes and still-lives, his touch becoming ever more glancing and feathery, so that by *Family Group* (1937) he looks much more like Bonnard or even Vuillard, whose home life his oddly resembled. Sometimes, too, the landscapes look a bit like the work of the Nash brothers, Paul for the oils, John for the drawings.

But by the end of the Thirties the influences are all assimilated, and Gillies's mature style proves to remain something of Cubism in its feeling for the sheer volumes of landscape, something of the Colourists in its vibrancy of colour, and throws in for good measure an occasional willingness to push on up to, and over the edge of, abstraction.

Many of Gillies's most masterly works date from his later years, when the forms are ever more boldly simplified, as in *Dusk* (1959), and then gradually begin to disintegrate into a haze of memory, as in the touching *Naim Beach*, painted around 1970, which refers obliquely to various familiar motifs like the kite, the beach ball and the dog, but suggests the testament of a lonely man who is withdrawing from direct contact with life. Though Gillies has long had the reputation of a master, this show really brings it all into focus.

Other shows around town concentrate on putting Gillies in his context. The Scottish Gallery has a show, *William Gillies and the Edinburgh School*, which puts him among friends like John Maxwell, and slightly younger painters such as Robin Philipson and Anne Redpath. At the City Art Centre is *First Among Friends*, which evokes a telling image of the group around Gillies, who seem to have shared the same programme for Scottish painting through natural affinity.



Under the influence of Cubism: *Marjory Porter*, painted by Sir William Gillies in 1934

dash and brilliance of Impressionism's heyday. Referred to these at Kirkalady, the visitor can get a comprehensive view of Peplow (1871-1935), "justified" (though who's complaining?) by this being the seventieth anniversary of Peplow's first one-man show in a public gallery - in Kirkalady, of course. Seeing so much Peplow at once, one does notice a tendency to fall into

formula in his mature work: it is as though once he moved on from the swirling brushwork of his thirties to the more rigid style of his later flower pieces and still-lives - the consequence, presumably, of suddenly taking Cézanne aboard - he settled into a comfortable routine. The results are undoubtedly strong and individual, and, as one might imagine, a feast of colour, but it is diffi-

cult not to regret the flash and dazzle of his youth.

William Gillies is at the Royal Scottish Academy, *The Mountain, Edinburgh* (0131-225 6971) until Oct 11. William Gillies and the Edinburgh School is at Aberdeen, 29 Howe St (01224-550 952) until Aug 22. First Among Friends and Fall of the Warm South are at the City Art Centre, 2 Marjory St (0131-529 332) until Oct 3. The Peplow Show is at the Museum and Art Gallery, War Memorial Gardens, Kirkalady (01592-42860) until Oct 11.

Crowning glories

The shade of the Princess of Wales, who died as Edinburgh Festival 1998 neared its end, is stalking Edinburgh Festival 1998. The comedians are apparently much preoccupied with her memory. As I reported in these pages a few days ago, David Benson is offering a remarkably robust solo piece about her funeral and the hysteria it aroused. Even Princess Sharon, a Polish play written in 1938 and now revived at the Traverse, seems glancingly to involve Diana.

But trust the Royal National Theatre of Brent, as Patrick Barlow and John Ramm's company calls itself. At the Assembly Rooms it is commemorating the Wales's marriage in its own inimitable *faux-naïf* way. Imagine Railway Cuttings, Cheam, transformed into the Brown Windsor Throne Room, a grandiose chamber with fake 18th-century chairs and columns on which perch, among other gaudy objects, a blue plastic handbag apparently belonging to the Queen. Suppose Tony Hancock, Eric Morecambe, Benny Hill and Mrs Malaprop had given their spir-

its and sometimes their accents to the two performers. You would have the spoof of the RNTB calls Love Upon the Throne. Barlow, looking and sounding like a suburban bank manager, plays Charles among other roles. Ramm, a goody clerk in a public gallery - in Kirkalady, of course. Seeing so much Peplow at once, one does notice a tendency to fall into formula in his mature work: it is as though once he moved on from the swirling brushwork of his thirties to the more rigid style of his later flower pieces and still-lives - the consequence, presumably, of suddenly taking Cézanne aboard - he settled into a comfortable routine. The results are undoubtedly strong and individual, and, as one might imagine, a feast of colour, but it is difficult not to regret the flash and dazzle of his youth.

The mother of all singsongs

Just before the start of this 1,000-voice onslaught on *Carmina Burana*, the Albert Hall announcer made her usual request for mobile phones to be switched off during the music. Mobile phones? Good grief, to have intruded into this show you would have needed a mobile earthquake.

PROMS

No fewer than 15 choirs joined forces to form this, the largest ensemble in the Proms' 104-year history. Hundreds of singers packed the stage behind the four pianos and nine percussionists (this was the non-orchestral version, presumably because there was no room for an orchestra). Hundreds of others were stacked up the sides of the organ. And there were more. A brigade of sopranos and altos in strident pace spilt out into the audience stalls to the right of the conductor, the unappreciable Terry Edwards. Another brigade, in equally strident tempo, massed to his left. Clearly this wasn't a night for students of subtlety. This was the mother of singsongs. It was *Godzilla Night* at the Proms.

Spirit of Elgar

The premiere of the year, Anthony Payne's elaboration of Elgar's Third Symphony sketches, only took place in February, but already this symphony feels familiar. Perhaps it is because Payne's labour of love has produced a truly Elgarian work. It may also be the extraordinary power of the melodic material, which, once heard, catches the heart. Beside the grandeur of the First and the brilliant instability of the Second, the Third is a simpler utterance, but a visionary one. And this was its finest performance to date.

RICHARD MORRISON

Of course, if you believe *Carmina Burana* to be utter drivel from start to finish (and plenty do) this megaphonic approach would hardly have converted you to its delicate charms. But the impact of those 15 choirs, swaggering through Carl Orff's thigh-slapping drinking-songs and his nudge-wink odes to strenuous Teutonic rumpy-pumpy, certainly registered straight sixes on the wow-scale. And there were fine solos from John Graham-Hall, suitably dressed as the roasted swan, and Judith Howarth as the voluptuous lass about to give her all.

HELEN WALLACE

Sleazy Lodger

The word "supergroup" always conjures yellowing images of Blind Faith, that ill-starred plaything of the late Sixties rock glitterati. The term sounds a little less bloated when applied to Lodger, a meeting of minds of indie outfits Delicatessen and Powder, lent extra noteworthiness by the part-time involvement of Supergass drummer Danny Goffey, chiefly as a songwriter.

POP

Chartwise, their debut release *I'm Leaving* nibbled momentarily at the bestsellers at the end of April. But it was an arresting opener by lead singers Pearl Lowe and Neil Carill that had the misfortune to fall under the shadow of those other duelling romances, Tommy Scott of Space and Cerys Matthews of Catatonia. Some of Lodger's momentum was lost with a tuneful but toothless follow-up, *Always Round Here*, and they arrived at Dingwalls in Camden Town at an early career focal point, with a third single due at the end of the month and their first album, *A Walk In The Park*, to come next month. Live, to a healthy turnout, they evoked a certain sleazy if self-conscious allure, their foot soldiers happy for the collective gaze to fall entirely on the dress and heavy eye make-up, playing a well-scrubbed Stoussie

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هكذا من الرجال

Success has been an alien experience for David Duchovny of *The X-Files*. Martyn Palmer met him

Tales of the unexpected fame

Once in a while, David Duchovny — Fox Mulder in the hugely successful TV series *The X-Files* — feels the need to break out of the celebrity straightjacket. An appearance on American shock jock Howard Stern's live radio show, for instance, is normally enough to make the 37-year-old actor feel liberated from the asphyxiating treatment meted out to his personalities.

While others who share his level of fame would run a mile at the very sight of Stern, who has built a career out of humiliating the rich and famous, there is something in Duchovny that positively courts his favours. Indeed, he was mortified once when, having tried to arrange an appearance, he was turned down by Stern, who dismissed him as a "fake Richard Gere".

The refusal served only to determine, and he has now appeared twice — giving as good as he received on both occasions. Duchovny likens the Stern experience to a form of Russian roulette — the thrill comes in knowing that it could all go disastrously wrong.

"It's exciting because people are always trying to control the world that I'm in," he says. "It's insulated. I'm always well-dressed when I see people. I've always shaved. I'm always controlled to look and be at my best, and when you do something like Howard Stern anything, anything at all, can happen. I like that."

'People are always trying to control the world that I'm in'

That Duchovny should need this occasional burst of control-free adrenalin — he has also appeared, sending himself up, on the wonderful spoof talk show, *Larry Sanders* — comes as no surprise when you meet the man himself.

He has often complained that after years (often working 14 hours a day, six days a week and ten months a year) of playing the same character, he needs new creative stimulation and challenges. A one-on-one with the likes of Stern is an interesting diversion.

These days, of course, Duchovny can pick and choose the chat shows he wants to appear on. *The X-Files* has grown from a cult hit into an international success in the five years since its creation, turning Duchovny and his co-star Gillian Anderson (who plays his partner Dana Scully) into huge stars.

Over several series, *The X-Files* has skillfully woven together an increasingly intricate web of conspiracy theories — mostly connected with governments covering up evidence of alien "abductions" — and expertly fed the nightmares of diehard fans, known as *X-philes*.

The \$60 million movie version of the show, released in this country on Friday, is another landmark. The trick for

the *X-Files* team was to produce a film that was not only a companion to the series, with references to previous stories and characters that have featured on TV, but also to make a film which would stand alone and draw in moviegoers who have not seen the show.

In short, it had to be cinema rather than TV. Duchovny admits that it was a fine line to tread but believes that they have pulled it off.

"It's supposed to be out there competing with *Armageddon* and *Godzilla* and that kind of theatrical waste-bang for the buck," he says. "All that stuff — making the alien look wonderful, shooting on a glacier, explosions — is the spectacle and a huge concern for the people having to do it, but fortunately I have nothing to do with that side of it. For me the biggest concern as an actor was how to play a part that I've been playing for

five years — and introduce him at the same time. It was an interesting challenge and kind of energising, because it sent me back to the beginning, re-discovering all those things about the character that I liked in the first place. All the dangers of making this movie are only apparent now that we have succeeded. I'd always thought we'd make a movie and it would be great. We know how to make the TV series and we tell great stories and we have good characters, so why not?"

But it's only now, doing interviews, that I fully appreciate all the pitfalls. Not only could the movie have bombed and therefore tarnished the champion status of a great TV show, it could have been totally incomprehensible to people who don't know the show.

Born and raised in New York, Duchovny grew up in an academic environment. "I had no interest in acting as a child," he recalls. "I always had more fun playing basketball, baseball, tennis, anything. I was good at ball sports, I wasn't particularly fast or strong but I had good hand-to-eye coordination."

He attended Princeton University and then received his Masters degree in English Literature from Yale, where he first began to act. "There were a lot of actors there and I thought those people were having fun the way that I'd had fun playing sport. It looked like a team sport to me: they were getting together to make something work."

"I didn't think of it as a career at that stage. Actually I wanted to write for the stage and movies and I wanted to learn more about acting in order to write better. I thought I would understand good dialogue if I got to speak it. It's weird the way you kind of back into things."

During a summer break from Yale, Duchovny returned to New York and was offered a beer commercial be-



David Duchovny gives thanks for the actor's life: "You can do the most powerful things and not have to pay for it; kill someone and not go to jail"

ter would be the case. "I don't think anyone thought it was going to be huge. It wasn't on one of the big networks — ABC, NBC or CBS — it was shown on the great pretender, Fox. And we were doing a show about aliens, which seemed silly, Chris Carter, who created the show, had never done anything. Gillian Anderson hadn't done anything and no one was waiting for what I was going to do next. So none of us were anticipated in any way."

Instead, filmed entirely in and around Vancouver, where production costs are cheaper than Los Angeles, the show proved it could win ratings against all the odds. It broke viewing records in America and won a clutch of Emmys.

Last year, Duchovny and Anderson campaigned for the show to be relocated to Los Angeles and the sixth series is currently in production there. For the actor, it means that he can be at home with his wife, the actress Tea Leoni, and that, he says, has made a huge difference to the quality of his life.

"I wanted to move to LA before I was married, but after it there was no question, it had to happen," he says. "I want to play other parts, but there is something comforting in knowing how to play this character, getting up in the morning and kissing the wife goodbye, going to work and doing your job. For the moment, it's fine, it really is."

● The X-Files opens on Friday

Back to obscurity

THEATRE

In an article on these pages last Friday Mark Rylands, artistic director of the Globe, mentioned his project to stage readings of all surviving plays from 1567 to 1642. Incredibly, there are more than 400 of these, most never read except by scholars, and the enterprise is expected to take another 30 years.

In the Globe's current season of *full productions*, the second batch of plays consists of two that might otherwise have emerged only in those readings. One of them, Middleton's *A Mad World, My Masters*, is tedious and unappealing, although it is briefly redeemed by a neat reversal allowing women to score a rare triumph over misogynous men.

The original reception of *The Honest Whore* was successful enough for Dekker to write a sequel on his own, and Jack Shepherd's current production is a conflation of the two plays, lasting less than half the total time of the original. Would that it had been shorter. How infinitely distasteful it is to listen again and again to gallant snarling, spitting and abusing the very whorers they patronise. At that comes reversal in the second half Dekker shows himself a dab hand at dramatic irony, so that when Sonia Ritter turns the emotional tables on Rylands (playing her hypocrite husband) the audience applauds in gratitude that the imbalance towards male chauvinism has been adjusted.

After a tirade of abuse from Hippolito scorching Bellafra's soul she too is prepared to endure all things, even marriage to the ghastliest of her customers, Clarence Smith's Mattheo. He goes from bad to worse, like everyone else save Candido and the women, leaving Lilo Baur to utter a declaration of loyalty to her man that could have been sung by Tammy Wynette.

Placed in glamorous 1960s dress, the play offers the occasional shrewd line. What it lacks, though, is any character who can charge the blank verse with a touch of poetic daring. *A Mad World* treats what it calls "adulterous motions" very differently, as a feature of the world that must be viewed in a spirit of tolerance. Occasionally the strands of the plot echo those in the Dekker play, but the engine that moves them is the argument that tricksters will be hoist by their own petard. Such is the fate of Wil Johnson's Pollywit who, gulling his rich grandsons out of gold and jewels, ends by marrying the old man's mistress without realising that she is a successful whore.

In a sublimely funny scene Belinda Davison, perched outside a four-poster, must incorporate the grunts and squeals from within its curtains into a monologue that will leave the suspicious of John McEnery's spying husband. Performances in Sue Lefton's jolly staging include some awkwardly broad acting, but the jokes at women's expense are genial, sexual puns are legion, and Jonathan Cedd's Sir Bounteous, beaming over the top of his beribboned silk pyjamas, is a heart-cheering performance of benign dotiness.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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NEWS

Northern Ireland's worst atrocity

World leaders expressed horror at Northern Ireland's worst atrocity in 30 years of troubles, the 500lb bomb that exploded in Omagh claiming at least 28 lives.

The victims included at least 14 women and seven children. A 65-year-old grandmother, her pregnant 30-year-old daughter and 18-month-old granddaughter died.

Farm family loses three generations

Mick Grimes lost three generations of his close-knit Roman Catholic family in a single second. A procession of family and clergy arrived at Mr Grimes' farmhouse to offer condolences to a distraught man for whom a lifetime of daily attendance at mass must have suddenly seemed a spit in the eye.

Residents face reality

The scars were vivid and raw as residents in Omagh began to face up to the reality that their town will forever be associated with Ireland's most appalling atrocity.

Prime suspect named

The Real IRA was identified yesterday as the prime suspect in the Omagh bombing by Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable. He pledged that "no stone will be left unturned".

Adams jostled

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein President, was jostled and jeered yesterday by people waiting at the emergency centre in Omagh for news of missing friends and relatives.

Push-button ballots

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is to change the law to allow touch-button electronic voting and elections at the weekends.

Box office bonus

A film producer who is convinced that his film will be an Oscar-winner is offering to refund tickets to anyone who does not agree with him.

Missing toddler found

A toddler has been found crying close to his grandfather's dead body in a remote beauty spot in north Wales, three days after they disappeared.

'Toy' plane aims for Atlantic record

A model aircraft with ideas above its station could make the first unmanned aircraft crossing of the Atlantic this week. Nearly 70 years after the first crossing, by Alcock and Brown in a Vickers-Vimy, a single-engined aircraft small enough to fit on a dining-room table is about to attempt the feat.

Submarine inquiry

A government decision to refit a nuclear submarine that will be in service for only four years has been referred to the independent Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Scot held up US bank

A Scottish university graduate is being held in a Florida jail for holding up a bank at gunpoint to pay for a flight home after his money was stolen in a street mugging.

Turner study

Our Artists' Britain series looks at East Cowes Castle, as depicted by William Turner in 1827 when he was invited by his friend John Nash, the architect, to stay for a working holiday.

Troops fly to Congo

Fifty Royal Marines flew into Brazzaville from Ascension Island in preparation to evacuate foreigners from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Embassy suspect held

A key suspect in the bombings of two American embassies in East Africa ten days ago is being questioned in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Clinton testimony

President Clinton is ready to admit to an "inappropriate relationship" with Monica Lewinsky in his testimony to the grand jury today, reports say.



Members of the pop group All Saints, with Robbie Williams, the singer, and Jamie Theakston, the television star, outside the Canadian High Commission in London yesterday during the People's Procession for a worldwide ban on landmines.

BUSINESS

Viagra windfall: The Government is set to earn £100 million a year in tax collected from the worldwide sales of Viagra.

Church protest: The Church of England is considering using its substantial shareholding in GEC, the electronic engineering giant, to prevent the company shifting towards defence.

Pay deal: British Petroleum managers are looking forward to increased salaries when new pay scales are adopted in the aftermath of the oil company's £30 billion takeover of Amoco.

Stagecoach loss: Britain's largest transport company faces a £36 million loss after a decline in the shares of a Chinese company in which it bought a stake.

FEATURES

No 1 in maths: Alfred Nobel graded physics and chemistry with prizes, but he left out mathematics. The discipline does, however, have an equivalent accolade: the Fields Medals.

Lapland luxury: Every season has a colour, and this winter it will be red. Grace Bradberry, Style editor, looks at designer trends for sumptuous tribal chic.

51st State: In an extract from his debut novel, Peter Preston, former Editor of The Guardian, describes a gloomy Britain where the euro has replaced the pound.

Feeling the heat: Six experts suggest ways in which President Clinton can convince the grand jury of his innocence and how they can spot if he is lying.

ARTS

Festival fare: Edinburgh pays homage to home-grown talent with a series of shows devoted to two Scottish artists: meanwhile, a spoof about Diana, Princess of Wales, is on the Fringe.

Musical mass: The Albert Hall reverberates to the sound of 15 choirs who form the largest ensemble in 104 years of the Proms.

Change of fortune: When David Duchovny was hired to star in a new television series called The X-Files, he was certain it would be a flop. Five years later, he is about to become a movie star.

Jacobean double: The Globe Theatre brings to life Middleton's A Mad World, My Masters and Dekker's The Honest Whore with mixed results.

RADIO & TV

Preview: Nick Charles, a reformed alcoholic, in The Day That Changed My Life (BBC2, 7.30pm). Review: After Diana: Remaking the Royals rehearsed familiar arguments.

OPINION

An end to excuses: The republican dissidents who commit these murders operate with tools that Gerry Adams's organisation secured. He must lead the decommissioning body to his arms caches.

Why Omagh?

The terrible reality is that the more successful counter-terrorism becomes at protecting key installations, the more frequent will be designedly indiscriminate terrorist attacks.

Viagra for Britain

There is a national myth that Britons fail to exploit their discoveries. The news that the royalties from Viagra will accrue to Pfizer UK puts the record straight.

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Terrorist sub-groups inevitably see themselves in a heroic light. They feel self-righteous, they feel betrayed. They are as a result extremely dangerous.

ANTHONY MCINTYRE

Let Sinn Fein and the British get on with it. Whatever they agree, it must be better than wiping out 28 innocent people.

GARY MCDOWELL

Were it only about sex, it seems clear that Mr Clinton would survive. But it isn't.

Lamberto Gardelli, conductor; Vladimir Dudintsev, writer; Roger Luard, businessman; Robert Tudor Jones, theologian.

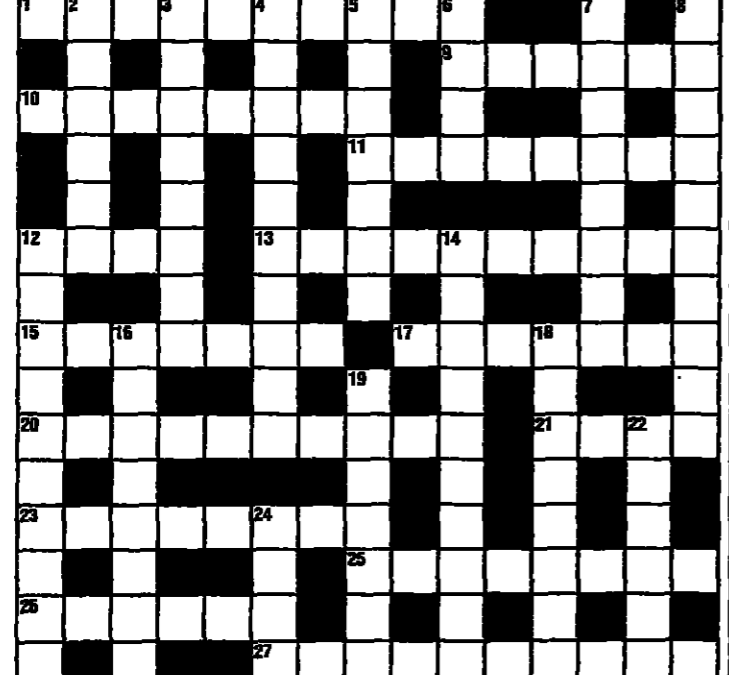
LETTERS

NHS merit pay: ageing workforce; backbench talent; Princes' safety; birdlife and crops.

Under Thatcher and now Blair the British economy has worked well enough for those of us on the Continent to refer to a "British model".

But the law is that Britain still refuses to join the single currency and cannot see its inestimable advantages. La Stampa, Turin

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,872



ACROSS
1 It indicates disapproval of little Tom's county (6,4).
9 Counsel links retiring US lawyer with depravity (8).
10 Deadlock created when teachers protect corrupt don (8).
12 Castle dance mostly conforming to accepted standards (8).
13 Card carrying royal summons (4).
15 Least amount those in authority will accept for treatment (7).
17 Get parted from one's sweetheart in commotion (7).
20 Tasteful record making money, though not accepted at first (10).
21 But this city ain't in Pennsylvania (4).
23 The person in the chair may be of no practical importance (8).
25 English poet going round to get doctor (8).
26 Captured by African, I'm a lion, possibly (6).
27 Which Marryat hero inherits a fortune? Careful! (4,4,2).
DOWN
2 Success taking that woman to this position (6).
3 Menagerie leader more dexterous when catching a tiger, perhaps (3-5).
4 Demonstrate garment for an equestrian competitor (10).
5 Unconventional position of copper given desk job (7).
6 It secures a climbing plant, mostly (4).
7 Score-book? (8).
8 Plant having poison - and no label, unfortunately (10).
12 Retirement money taken from account (10).
14 Just the reason for popular entertainment (10).
16 Excited cow initially not jumping over the moon (8).
18 Oriental father overwhelmed by girl's energy (8).
19 Essentials for Henry Higgins, initially - but not Eliza (7).
22 Expedition heading off shortly on a distant island (6).
24 It could describe a nurse, but never does (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,871 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

FORECAST

General: central and southern parts of England dull for much of the day with coastal and hill fog patches and drizzly rain in places.

London, SE, Cant S, E, SW England, E Anglia, E Midlands: rather humid and dull with spots of drizzly rain. Light southwesterly wind. Max 24C (75F).

W Midlands, S Wales: some mist and drizzle but brighter and fresher later. Light southwesterly wind, becoming westerly. Max 22C (72F).

Channel Isles: rather foggy and dull. Light southwesterly wind. Max 21C (70F).

N Wales, NW, Central N, NE England, Lakes, IOM: generally dry with sunny spells.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

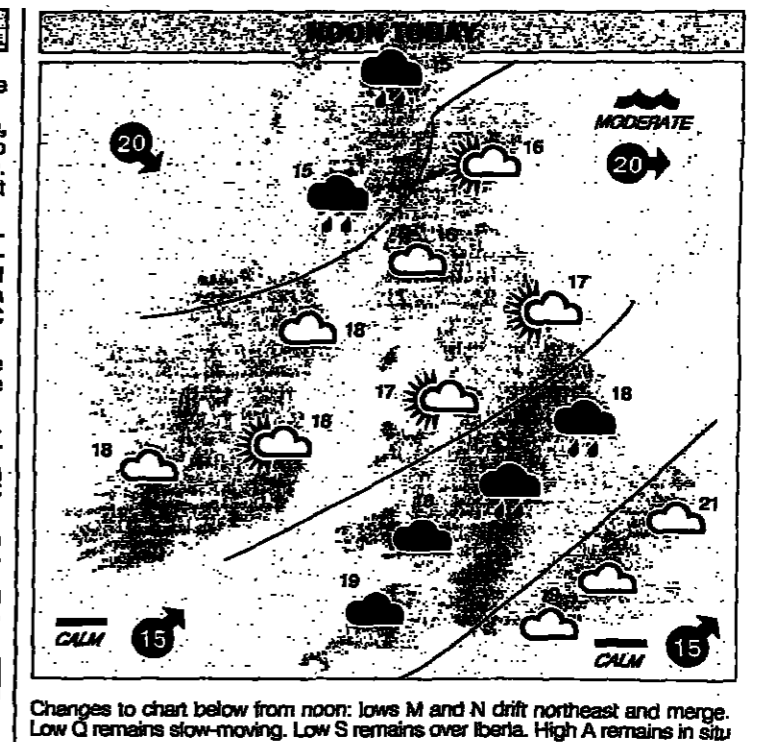
ARTS

A child actor grows up: Christian Bale on playing old and young in Metroland

LAW

Young and in trouble: strategies to stem the tide of juvenile crime

Table with weather forecasts for various cities: Aberdeen, Glasgow, Belfast, etc.



Changes to chart below from noon: lows M and N drift northeast and merge. Low G remains slow-moving. Low S remains over Iberia. High A remains in situ

Table with weather forecasts for various cities: Alicante, Madrid, Rome, etc.

Table with radio and TV listings for various stations: Today, Tomorrow, etc.

If you find airline strikes exhilarating perhaps you'd better forget Swissair.

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هكذا من الرصيد

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

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 England put Sri Lanka to flight
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PLUS
 County cricket reports
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THE RACE IS BACK ON
 Schumacher backs winning strategy in Hungary
PAGE 27

RUN FOR GLORY
 David Powell looks forward to the European championships
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WINLESS IN SEATTLE
 Montgomerie's major chance goes again
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY AUGUST 17 1998

LIVERPOOL'S SHOOTING STAR IS OFF TO AERIAL GALLOP



Strike the pose: Owen milks the applause from delighted Liverpool supporters after his match-winning goal against Southampton at The Dell yesterday. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Owen revels in kids' stuff

THEY were talking about "the kid" again yesterday. They raved about him: Gerard Houllier, the new Liverpool joint-manager, said that it made his job easy just having him in the team. "The kid" had made one and scored one, just like he had against Argentina in the World Cup. The sight of him in full flow yesterday was like an umbilical cord stretching back to France. From St-Etienne to Southampton, they are all fields of gold for Michael Owen now. His name has hardly been off our lips since June. His face has adorned countless magazine covers, his image has become the epitome of clean-cut sporting success. Anything other than the winner at The Dell yesterday would have been a anticlimax. Anything else would have been a surprise, and the Golden Boy did not disappoint. Only one game has gone and he is already one ahead of Alan Shearer in the eagerly awaited battle to be the FA Carling Premiership's top scorer.

Owen did not play at his best. He even showed a rare touch of fallibility by missing a clear second-half chance. But he still managed to command centre stage in this morale-boosting, handily victory for one of the four title favourites. He created Liverpool's equaliser for his striking partner, Karlheinz Riedle, with a fine cross, and clinched the win with a clinical 73rd-minute volley just when it seemed that his side had settled for a draw.

Liverpool just about deserved the three points. Southampton had the two best players on the pitch in their central midfield partnership of Carlton Palmer and Matthew Oakley, and even boasted a bright English prospect of their own in Wayne Bridge, who made an impressively assured debut. But Liverpool looked more solid in defence at last with Hoggan and Staunton as the full backs. Ince and McMahon prompted well from midfield and Riedle and Owen provided the cutting edge that Southampton lacked. It is too early to say whether this

season may offer an end to their years of underachievement, but there was a hint of a new solidity and cohesion about them that bodes well. After the game, Robbie Fowler warmed up on the pitch to remind everyone that Liverpool have another classy striker waiting in the wings, another player to give them impetus as the season progresses.

Liverpool had started brightly. Less than 20 seconds had elapsed when Ince unleashed a low, 30-yard shot that skimmed a few inches off the turf towards the bottom right-hand corner of the net and brought a flying save out of Jones. The Wales goalkeeper had to be at his best again four minutes later to deny Owen the dream start everyone had been predicting for him.

Owen collected a loose ball just inside the Southampton area and tried to thread a pass through to Riedle. When the ball rebounded to him off a defender, though, he made



space for himself with a deft move to the right and forced Jones to hurl himself low to his left to push his stinging shot round the post.

Carragher spurned another chance for the visitors a few seconds later, when he missed his kick in front of goal, and the Southampton supporters, with only the wild lunges of their new signing, Mark Hughes, to cheer, began to call fretfully for the

release of Le Tissier from his imprisonment on the bench. Dave Jones, the Southampton manager, said afterwards that he had been left out because he had had a poor pre-season. "The time has gone when we need him to carry us," he said.

Hughes gave the home side cause for hope midway through the half when he sneaked in front of Carragher and rounded Friedel before prodding his shot into the side-netting. To make sure he made his mark early on for his new club, Hughes thrust his forearm into Friedel's face soon after that, and as if it was a cue, Southampton scored.

Palmer, who had outplayed Ince in the centre of midfield, inspiring his team with a series of crunching tackles and surging runs, slipped a short ball out to Ripley, another new signing, eight minutes before half-time. Ripley fired in his cross, but its trajectory was changed when it looped up off Babb. Ostenstad met it

on the edge of the six-yard box with his head, but the ball seemed to clip Ince on the back before it bounced into the corner of the net.

Two minutes later, Liverpool were level. Owen, who had drifted out to the left, collected the ball near the touchline and curled in an inviting cross. The Southampton defence watched it sail over them and Riedle ran in to power a fierce downward header under the despairing dive of Jones.

When the second half began, Owen appeared briefly to have lost some of his lustre. A neat turn and pass from Riedle sent the prodigy scampering clear of the Southampton defence, but as he bore down on Jones, Owen miscontrolled the ball, stumbled and allowed the goalkeeper to rush out and ruin his opportunity.

It took little more than 20 minutes more for Owen to punish those who had allowed even a little doubt to creep into their minds. With Dodd confined to the touchline as he waited to rejoin after an injury, Staunton hurled a long throw into the Southampton box, where Ince flicked it on. Jones tried to claim it but could only push it away a few yards, to where Owen was waiting to volley the ball unerringly into the open net.

Beattie, a late substitute, brought a fine save out of Friedel in the 77th minute with a looping header from Dodd's cross and Le Tissier could have scored two minutes from the end, but pulled his shot narrowly wide. No one, it seems, can steal the limelight away from the Boy Wonder.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, R. Dryden, C. Ludlow, S. Hely — S. Ripley (sub: J. Beattie, T. Jones), C. Palmer, M. Oakley, J. Beresford (sub: W. Bridge, T. — M. Hughes, E. Ostenstad (sub: M. Le Tissier, 69)

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): B. Friedel — V. Hoggan, J. Carragher, P. Babb, S. Staunton — J. McNamee, P. Ince, B. McMahon, P. Berger (sub: S. Harshaw, 75) — K. Riedle, M. Owen

Referee: P. Atcock



Hoggan, the Liverpool newcomer, tries to make a run between Beresford, left, and Oakley

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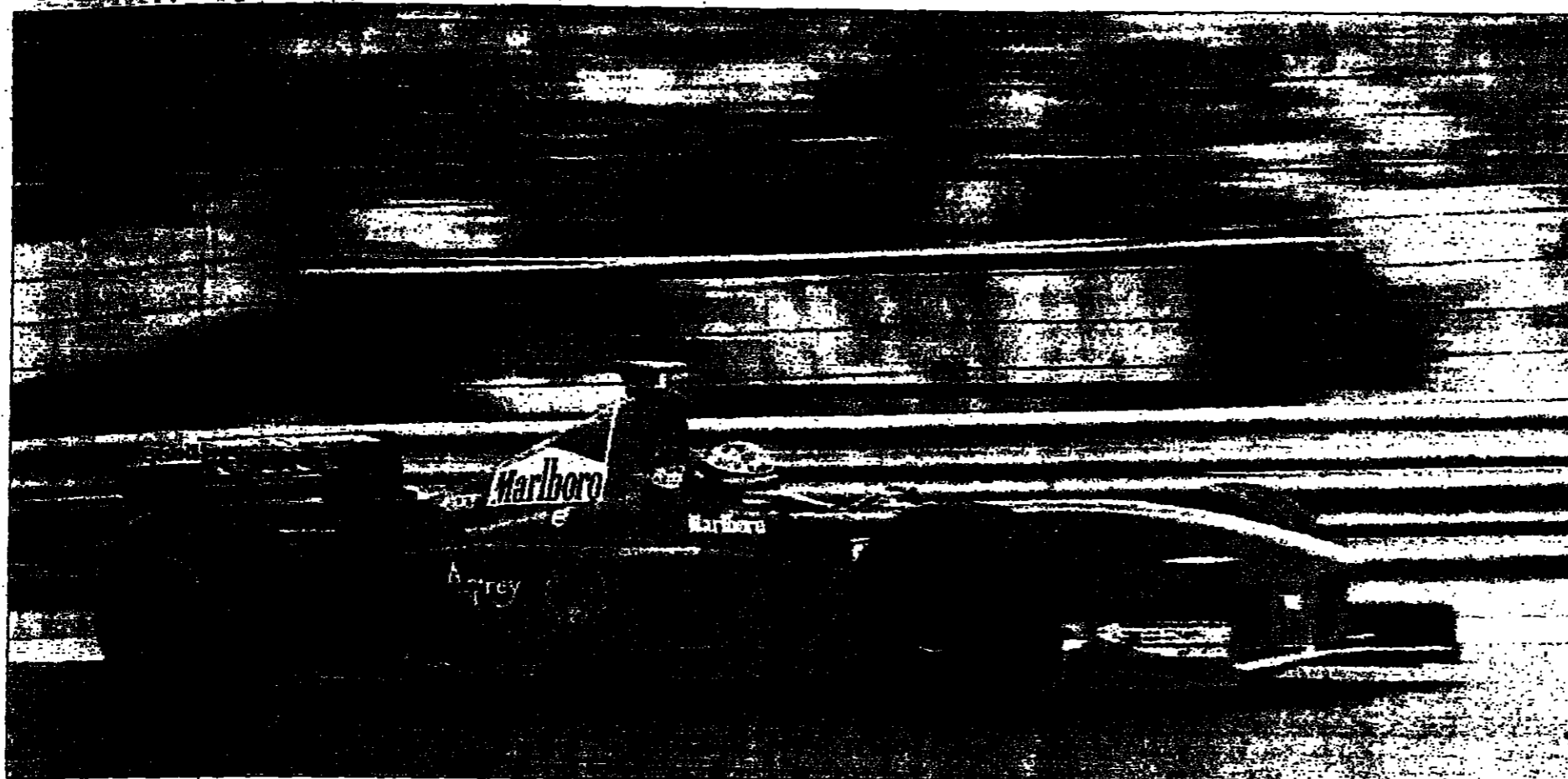
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 Chelsea's fallings, page 31
 Celtic pay penalty, page 32
 Programme notes, page 34

Dramatic Ferrari victory puts Formula One title race back in the balance



Schumacher guides his Ferrari towards a stirring victory that reopened the Formula One title race in the Hungarian Grand Prix yesterday. Photograph: Barna Szabzo

IT TOOK only two minutes yesterday for Ross Brawn, the Ferrari technical director, to make the call that could change the destiny of the Formula One world drivers' championship. In a sport calculated to the thousandth of a second by banks of computers, the Englishman gambled on his instinct and experience and, as a result, Michael Schumacher snatched the Hungarian Grand Prix from McLaren.

The result was a victory of remarkable cunning that allowed the normally cool and calculating Schumacher to throw himself into the cauldron of emotion that enveloped the Hungarian. A single fist thrust skywards as his Ferrari screamed to the chequered flag gave little clue to the depth of feelings under the mask of Schumacher's helmet. The German is used to winning against the odds, but even he could barely believe such an unexpected victory. "This was among the finest of his 32 wins, he said. "It was

Schumacher grateful for brain and Brawn

really outstanding. I could not help being caught in the emotion because the team has worked so hard for this." Mika Hakkinen, the championship leader, had gone into the race 16 points clear of Schumacher and seemingly on the home run to his maiden championship, but he left Budapest last night crushed by the disappointment of managing to finish only sixth. Hakkinen was powerless to overcome a suspension fault that developed halfway through the race. He said he was watching his championship lead drain away with each passing lap. "I came here for ten points and

the whole weekend it looked as though I would get them. But once I had the problem on the car, I could not control it so I was just hanging on. Everything got to be a nightmare," he said. As Hakkinen contemplating a championship upon which Schumacher continues to impose his will, David Coulthard, his McLaren teammate, admired the German's performance. Coulthard, like Hakkinen, was expected to be impervious to Schumacher's assault from third on the grid, but Coulthard said: "His pace was just too quick. What

Michael did today was pretty impressive." According to Brawn, probably only Schumacher could be that impressive, fulfilling the demands of his team to drive on the limit for almost a third of the race. Ferrari were hoping that Schumacher could split the McLarens at the start and then run a strategy of two stops for fuel and tyres. When Brawn saw the McLarens disappear into the first corner, Hakkinen leading from pole followed by Coulthard then Schumacher, he took moments to tear up the plans and think on the hoof. Even though Schumacher harried Coulthard, he could not overtake on the Hungaroring's tight turns, which made pit stops imperative. Brawn called his driver on the radio and told him he would make three stops, running with just enough fuel to get him home each time. That enabled Schumacher to drive a car substantially lighter than the McLarens. It was the last throw of the dice in a race that McLaren thought would give them their sixth one-two finish of this season. At first, Brawn thought he had made a bad mistake as Schumacher emerged from his first stop to find himself trapped behind the Williams of Jacques Villeneuve. However, the decisive moments

came on lap 44, as Schumacher flew into the pits for his second call for tyres and fuel, to be followed a lap later by Coulthard and then Hakkinen. That was his chance to lead, a chance he could not waste. Brawn's radio message was simple: "You have fuel for 19 laps to get a 25-second lead. Do it." Schumacher needed no second bidding and went about his mission like a man possessed, throwing in a succession of searingly fast laps. The problems of the McLarens made little difference, for Schumacher was driving his Ferrari at a limit that is uncharted territory for

anyone else in Formula One. For a split-second, his daring seemed as though it would cost him dearly when he slithered off at the last turn into lap 61, but he wrestled the Ferrari back to the circuit and pushed on. Coulthard went past his struggling team-mate, who had to watch Villeneuve, then Damon Hill in his Jordan followed by Heinz-Harald Frentzen's Williams slip through to third, fourth and fifth. At the start of lap No 63 after 10 of some of the fiercest laps of driving of the year - Schumacher had his reward: a gap of 26.9sec. Mission accomplished, he made his last high-speed stop and then it was on to the flag and a victory that resurrected his title chances. The margins were cut almost unbelievably fine, though, and Brawn confessed that the Ferrari had only one gallon of petrol left as it crossed the line, barely enough to get back to the scrutineering garage and his hordes of supporters.

Table titled 'THE RACE FOR THE DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP' showing driver names, points, and positions. Drivers include Hakkinen, Schumacher, Coulthard, Irvine, Villeneuve, Wurz, Fisichella, Frentzen, Hill, Barrichello, R. Schumacher, Aleksi, Salo, Harbert, Dhaiz, and Magnussen.

Table titled 'DETAILS FROM BUDAPEST' containing race results for 77 laps, fastest lap, and qualifying times. Lists drivers like M. Schumacher, D. Coulthard, J. Villeneuve, etc., with their respective times and positions.

MOTOR RACING

Warwick clinches first touring car success

ANTHONY REID swept to victory in the sprint race and Derek Warwick clinched victory in the feature race at Knockhill yesterday to pile the pressure on Rickard Rydell, the Auto Trader RAC British touring car championship (BTCC) leader. Rydell, the Swedish driver, went to Scotland with a 45-point lead and left with it slashed to 35 thanks to a first-lap crash in the sprint. It was the fourth win of the season for Reid, the Nissan driver, matching the victory tally of Rydell, of Volvo. It made Reid the most credible of the challengers for the overall lead with six rounds remaining. For Warwick, the 43-year-old Vauxhall driver, it was his first victory in the BTCC in three seasons of trying and he was overjoyed. "I feel really good. This is the third win for the team this year," Warwick said. "Whatever happens in the future, I have got this BTCC win in the history books, which makes me proud."

SAILING: AINSLIE MAINTAINS DOMINATION AMONG THE LASERS AT ABERSOCH

Peters shows form to edge out Charles

RUSSELL PETERS, in DBS, produced consistent top-three finishes on the second day of the Ultra 30 Grand Prix at Penarth yesterday to secure an overall win from Glyn Charles, in United Airlines, with Eddie Warden Owen, in Team Hoya, third. In light conditions on Saturday, Peters produced the best form with two wins and a third place to take an overnight advantage. Peters, a former champion in the class, then added a second place and two thirds to finish three points ahead of Charles. Going into the last race,

however, Warden Owen, who won both of the first two races yesterday, looked to be heading for victory, especially when Peters suffered a penalty off the startline. But Warden Owen got the wrong side of a shift on the first downwind leg and dropped from second to fourth before capsizing on the third downwind leg to finish fifth. After two regattas, the overall leader is Charles, one point ahead of Peters. In the Bausch & Lomb 18ft Skiff regatta at Sunderland - the second of four events

making up the UK Grand Prix - Tim Robinson, assisted by Ian Walker and Zeb Elliott, was in dominant form, winning four of the five races in Rockport. Robinson showed excellent boat-speed at the recent unofficial world championships at Fowey, yet a couple of bad results prevented him winning that event. At Sunderland, he took the risk of installing Rockport's bigger rig in a breeze that was gusting up to 25 knots. Three capsize before the first start looked ominous, but

despite a further flip over in the first race at the leeward mark, Rockport finished second and then won the next two races before going on to win all three yesterday with the smaller rig. At Abersoch, Ben Ainslie continued his dominance of British laser sailing. The world No 1 produced a devastating performance, scoring nine wins in ten starts. Ainslie's worst score came in the last race, when he went back at the start after mistakenly believing that he had crossed the line early. He still finished third.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Shaw completes her collection of titles

Norma Shaw, from County Durham, crowned a distinguished career on Saturday when she beat Gill Mitchell 21-11 to win the English women's singles championship at Royal Learnington Spa, the only national title to have eluded her in 20 years of top-level competition. Maureen Monkton and Edna Bessell, of Yeovil, who won the pairs title last week, teamed up with their club colleague, Jenny Whitlock, and almost added the triples. They were denied by Liz Tunn, Jill Nicholson and Brenda Brown, of Colchester, who scored a last-end single to break a 17-17 deadlock after 17 ends. Nicky Brett, from Huntingdonshire, added the under-25 outdoor title to the indoor equivalent that he won last winter, thus becoming the first player to hold both titles simultaneously. Brett beat David Bolt, of Durham, 21-17 in the final, while Ian Mayne defeated Andrew Smith 21-14 in the Champion of Champions' final.

Bonus time for Simon

Hugo Simon won £600,000 in Aachen yesterday, the world's biggest showjumping bonus, when he won a second Grand Prix in the Pulsar Crown series. With the advantage of being drawn last in a 12-horse jump-off and riding in near-perfect conditions, Simon, on ET FRH, overhauled an early lead set by Peter Charles, of Ireland, whose second place was a career-best, on Trazzata T'Aime. Simon, 56, from Austria, said: "I don't take things too seriously these days but I've been dreaming of winning the Aachen Grand Prix for 35 years."

Morgan savours win

John Morgan, of England, won the West of Ireland seniors' championship at East Clare yesterday after a one-over-par final round of 73. Morgan dropped three shots in the first 11 holes, but managed to stay in front and birdied the 12th and 16th holes for an eight-under-par total to win by a shot from Denis O'Sullivan, of Ireland. Chris Williams, of England, inspired by a hole in one on the 14th and a dramatic collapse by Zaw Moe, of Myanmar, won the Volvo Masters of Malaysia in a play-off.

England retain crown

England Under-19 successfully retained the world junior men's team championship with a 2-1 victory over Egypt at Frimley, Adrian Grant and Vic Haines took the tandem record in 58min 48sec. In the Tour de L'Ain, Chris Boardman won the fifth and final stage, an 18.25-kilometre time-trial between Jasseron and Bourg-en-Bresse, beating David Millard by 9sec.

Javed takes charge

Javed Miandad, now 41 and a veteran of six World Cup tournaments, was appointed coach of the Pakistan team yesterday in a move, according to the Pakistani Cricket Board, designed to improve the overall efficiency of the side. Aamir Sohail, the opening batsman, has replaced Rashid Latif, the wicketkeeper, as captain for the five-match Sahara Cup tournament, which takes place next month.

Hillingworth in top gear

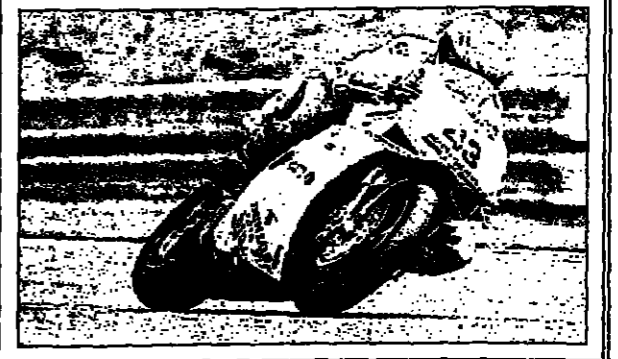
Matthew Hillingworth, of Team Brité, who rides in the world track championships at Bordeaux next week, won the Leo RC 50-mile time-trial at Hatfield Fens in 57min 31sec yesterday. Sean Yates and Vic Haines took the tandem record in 58min 48sec. In the Tour de L'Ain, Chris Boardman won the fifth and final stage, an 18.25-kilometre time-trial between Jasseron and Bourg-en-Bresse, beating David Millard by 9sec.

Meakin at the double

Harry Meakin, 17, scored two goals in the final chukka of the Gannon Match to give Beaufort the Pony Club championships with a 5-4½ victory over South Down East at Cowdray Park yesterday. Callum Anderson, aided by Sophie West, put South Down East 4½-3 ahead in the third chukka before Meakin's double. West won the player-of-the-season award.

Walker makes amends

Matt Llewellyn and Chris Walker claimed victories in the fifteenth and sixteenth rounds of the Motor Cycle News British superbike championship at Mallory Park yesterday. Llewellyn, below, started on pole position and although he was passed, recovered to win on his GSE Ducati. Walker, who had crashed while leading, made amends in the second event.

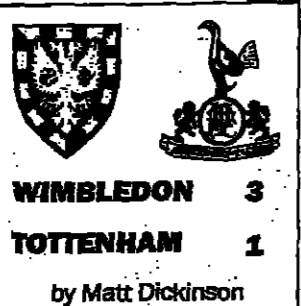


Mercedes-Benz servicing while you wait? Advertisement for Mercedes-Benz CarExpress service. Text includes: 'You don't need to be Mika Hakkinen to enjoy fast, skilled, while-you-wait service for your Mercedes. Just call in at the CarExpress bay at your nearest authorised Mercedes-Benz dealer and while you relax, routine work like oil service, tyres, exhausts and brakes can be professionally completed there and then. All at great value fixed prices, too. How do you find your nearest CarExpress dealer? Just call. That's all. Just call. That's all. 0800 665460 Mercedes-Benz'

FA Carling Premiership: Beckham's timely intervention fails to disguise lack of inspiration

Wimbledon put Gross back on the defensive

IT WAS Groundhog Day for supporters of Tottenham Hotspur. Darren Anderton made an early dash for the showers. David Ginola was booked for an immaculate dive. Ramon Vega moved like a giant oak and Christian Gross proved that his English vocabulary remains limited to four words.



that, once more, they are ready to serve up huge portions of humble pie. "How many of you said we were going down?" a grinning Kinnear asked as he walked in to face the media.

Michael Hughes, Wimbledon's best player of last season, was the outstanding performer by some distance, always willing to seek the ball and take responsibility.

And it will remain thus unless Gross quickly grasps some simple footballing truths - namely that Vega is a liability and that Anderton and Nicola Berté are a central midfield partnership with the durability of tissue paper.

Until then, Spurs will continue to lose games like this that they clearly have the talent to win and Gross will continue to stand defensively in press conferences.

One doubts whether he will ever crack it at White Hart Lane if his team selection remains this flawed. With Steffen Iversen the only invalid left on Tottenham's notorious sick list, this should have been their strongest XI.

According to Gross, Anderton is still several games short of match fitness. What on earth has he been doing since the World Cup, then? It is difficult to see how the England wing back can remain in a central role when Ginola and Ruel Fox are so sporadically involved on the flanks, but at least Anderton looked more dynamic than the willing Berté.

Such was the depth of Tottenham's problems that Gross resorted to throwing Vega into attack, a move which merely confused Ferdinand and Armstrong. "I had a little chuckle when I saw them lumping balls up to the centre half," Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, noted. "If I had done that, I would have been castrated."

Kinnear could be forgiven for crowing. Top of the league after 90 minutes of a ten-month season is hardly a dependable form guide, but his merry band had proved

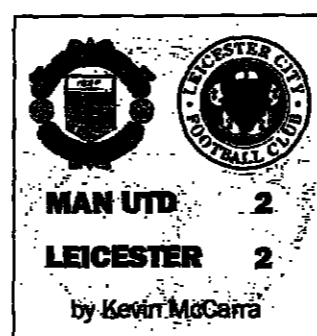


Beckham celebrates the goal, scored in injury time, that silenced the taunts of visiting Leicester supporters and salvaged a point for Manchester United

THE flight path of David Beckham's free kick resembled the cardiograph of an anguished Manchester United supporter on Saturday. There was the same frantic rise and fall, although, for his team, it was a sign of health.

United in need of health check

conversation with the youth coach at Filbert Street. "David Nish told me about two good 15-year-olds," O'Neill said, "but I didn't want to know because by the time they are 18 I'll be dead. I want him to tell me about 19-year-olds who can play in the team straight away."



Heskey brushed the cut-back into the net off the underside of the bar. Tony Cottee had missed earlier opportunities, but in the 76th minute, he headed home a cross over which Savage had been allowed undue time to deliberate.

used to legitimate boorishness. The behaviour was also profoundly tedious, particularly since Leicester's fans follow a good team that deserves the undivided services of their larynxes.

The home crowd at Old Trafford, by comparison, had cause to be disgruntled. United's resources actually looked thin. Ryan Giggs spent parts of the game on the wing and others in the middle of the attack, but no matter where he moved he was missed in the area.

Supporters complain that purchases have been of an inadequate standard in recent times and Ferguson has been frustrated by the difficulty of enhancing the attack.

By then, Leicester had lost Keller, the goalkeeper, with a knee injury, and Elliott had to be removed after breaking his nose. Yet, it appeared that the visitors would survive until Izzet's foul on Scholes let Beckham demonstrate his marksmanship.

In a practice that is already conventional, the England midfielder player was booed throughout by the opposition's supporters. Beckham's ordering off at the World Cup, the ostensible cause of the derision, cannot really be felt so keenly and that controversy is only

Such a piece of finesse, for a club on the edge of defeat, is like the triggering of a flashbulb, but not even the glare could blind one to the meagreness of United's performance. In the absence of accuracy, there is no momentum and, with possession often being lost, many of the side's moves had to be halted for repairs.

In his references to lethargy and bad defending, Alex Ferguson, the manager, brought up the criticisms before anyone else had the chance to raise them. His praise of Leicester was not an attempt to divert attention from United's shortcomings. "In the first 20 minutes, they put us through the mill and we got very nervous," he said.

Ferguson was doing no more than brandishing the facts. The subtle theatricals had come from his opposite number. Martin O'Neill delivers his observations as much to entertain as to explain. On Saturday, there was a charming digression on the strains of management when he recalled a

O'Neill chooses to saturate his remarks with a folksy wit, presenting life at Leicester as a sort of comic siege. Even when they leave the country, they are still beleaguered. Or so O'Neill would have you believe, with his account of a meandering pre-season tour of Ireland and some humdrum friendly matches.

"The lads complained because they thought they should have a better quality of opposition," O'Neill said. "I said: 'Don't worry. When the season starts, you'll get it.'" Sifting through all this one does come across pieces of truth, because Leicester are certainly not affluent. Nonetheless, O'Neill's side have much more to offer than diligent humility.

This allegedly downtrodden club won the Coca-Cola Cup in 1997 and

threatened to qualify for Europe last season. Judging by the display at Old Trafford, O'Neill will fail to keep their proficiency a secret. The defence, which included Sinclair, the Jamaica international, who signed last week from Chelsea, was obstinate. The three men in the centre of midfield were careful in their work and adventurous when the opportunity arose. In attack, Leicester have Emile Heskey. United must have been as impressed as they were depressed. After seven minutes, Izzet squirmed along the byline and

By then, Leicester had lost Keller, the goalkeeper, with a knee injury, and Elliott had to be removed after breaking his nose. Yet, it appeared that the visitors would survive until Izzet's foul on Scholes let Beckham demonstrate his marksmanship. In a practice that is already conventional, the England midfielder player was booed throughout by the opposition's supporters. Beckham's ordering off at the World Cup, the ostensible cause of the derision, cannot really be felt so keenly and that controversy is only

afternoon. Derby's refusal to commit many players forward meant that they rarely looked capable of adding to their meagre total of four away league wins last season. Lars Bohinen, brought on for Francesco

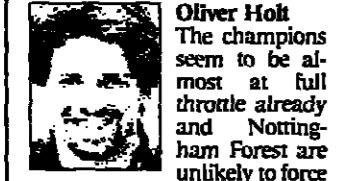
Balsano in a further defensive move, aimed a frustrated kick at Tim Sherwood, his former colleague in the Blackburn midfield. He missed, naturally. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, was also returning to his former home, although his spell in charge at Ewood Park was so long ago - in the mid-1970s - that his present club were champions at the time. Smith's memories of Rovers pale in comparison with those of the 98-year-old season ticket-holder who was featured in the match programme. She began to watch the team regularly in the 1920s - and some of those early games may already be clearer in her mind than this forgettable encounter.

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): J. Flen - J. Kenna, S. Hendrick, D. Peacock, G. Dawkins - P. Perez, K. Galloway, G. Rickett, S. Sharwood, J. Wilson (sub: D. Hall, 65) - K. Davies (sub: M. O'Brien, 73), S. Sutton. Derby County (3-4-1-2): R. Hunt - C. Dashi, H. Cotton, J. Laurson (sub: S. Egan, 65) - R. Dalton, G. Castley, D. Powell, S. Schofield - P. Salinas (sub: L. Behrens, 65) - D. Sandridge, P. Warrington (sub: D. Burton, 66). Reference: S. Lodge.



Davies glimpses of talent

Gascoigne clings to fading glories as trouble crowds in on all sides



Oliver Holt The champions seem to be almost at full throttle already and Nottingham Forest are unlikely to force them to take their foot off the pedal at Highbury tonight.

Forest, with a catalogue of problems and a shortage of funds for new players, have

SCORN and frustration have turned to pity and the tragedies are crowding in. The tears of lost expectation that he shed so freely eight years ago when his public odyssey began have turned to a brier kind of weeping. He has tried and failed to find happiness in other parts of his life and the embers of his football career are all that Paul Gascoigne has left.

Even by his own frenetic standards, he has had a hell of a week. It started with Glenn Hoddle, the man who had stood by him for so long, rubbing salt into the wounds of his World Cup rejection; it gathered pace with the revelation that his estranged wife, Sheryl, was hurrying through their divorce; and it plunged to its nadir when one of his best friends collapsed and died on Friday morning after a night out with Gascoigne.

After that, his long-awaited debut in the FA Carling Premiership, a division that it seems hard to believe he has never raced until now was little more than a palliative, something to help him start to get through the misery. Paul Merson and Andy Townsend, his Middlesbrough team-mates, told him to play against Leeds United on Saturday because it would help take his mind off it.

brought is the last chance for him to show that he still has what it takes. "The kid was really upset about his friend," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said. "He was one of his best mates. A few of them were out for a meal together and Gaz seems to feel particularly upset about it all because he paid for this guy's last meal on the night before he had a heart attack."

"It was reported as though they had all had a big night out, but it

was not like that. He was in a restaurant. If you have got a family, you go to a restaurant. People have got to have a life and Paul was back in at 10.45 that night. He assured me he only had two glasses of red wine and to me that is a nice sensible night out. I know he's no angel, but he did nothing wrong."

Mercifully, Gascoigne did not let himself down against George Graham's side, even if he did come perilously close to being sent off for

elbowing Lee Bowyer in the side of the head when 30 minutes of the game had elapsed. That apart, his duel with his young opponent was the only redeeming feature of a depressingly barren game.

Perhaps he was dispossessed a few times, perhaps he showed a carelessness and a lack of change of speed - signs that he is not the player he was. But we knew that already. Rather, it was nice to be reminded, after a summer of regarding him as a reject, all washed up, that there is still much to admire in his game. It felt good to see him fighting back. He played within himself and still managed to produce the best pass of the game, a 40-yard lofted ball to Merson that could have led to a goal had the England forward not been barged aside by Radebe. Even in the closing minutes, he was still propping and his run and fierce left-foot shot was about as close as Middlesbrough came to breaching the Leeds defence.



Gascoigne takes evasive action as Kewell tries to lick the ball past the Middlesbrough player. Photograph: Charles Knight

Davies escapes the mediocrity

FOOTBALL-haters have been dismayed by the apparently seamless transition from one season to another in this World Cup year. When these teams reinforced that impression by continuing to reveal the attacking deficiencies

with which both ended last season, it was enough to drive even devotees of the game to despair. A dull match echoed the final quarter of the past campaign when a poor strike rate denied Derby County a UEFA Cup place and almost cost Blackburn Rovers theirs. They each managed only eight goals in their last ten FA Carling Premiership outings.

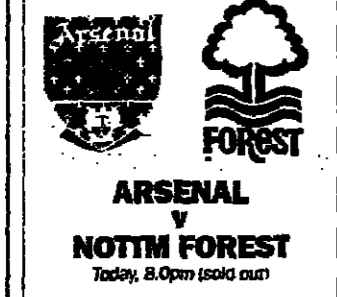
Not that Ewood Park was entirely devoid of positives. In the early stages, Kevin Davies, a Blackburn debutant, did little to discourage comparisons with Alan Shearer, another to have been priced away from Southampton by Rovers at great expense. The £7.25 million invested by Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, has given him a striker with the strength to shield the ball from the best of defenders and the skill to evade subsequent tackles. Davies induced several fouls in such situations, one of which led to a 25-yard free kick by Jason Wilcox that was pushed away at full stretch by Russell Hoult, the Derby goalkeeper. Davies faded, like the match, and was substituted, but he had impressed his manager. "Davies did very well, Hodgson said. "He showed glimpses of his great talent."

Blackburn were also relieved to have kept a clean sheet in their first match since the departure of Colin Hendry, although Darren Peacock, his immediate replacement at centre back, was shaky at times. A missed header let through Sturridge for a lob that drifted wide of the post; hesitation gave Wanehope the chance to run on goal; and a back header gave John Flen, the Rovers goalkeeper, by far his most difficult save of the

afternoon. Derby's refusal to commit many players forward meant that they rarely looked capable of adding to their meagre total of four away league wins last season. Lars Bohinen, brought on for Francesco



Davies glimpses of talent



only one real trump card in Dave Bassett, their motivational manager, but, after being so badly let down by Pierre van Hooijdonk, the Holland striker, their main chance of avoiding a return to the Nationwide League has disappeared.

PREDICTION: Arsenal to win.

FA Carling Premiership put Scottish formula to the test. Pedestrian N...

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, Goal Difference. Lists football clubs and their performance metrics.

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NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Camberley 1, Ditchley 2, Guildford 1, Wokingham 1...

MININGVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Nuneaton 1, Leamington 1, Tamworth 1...

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP logo and branding.

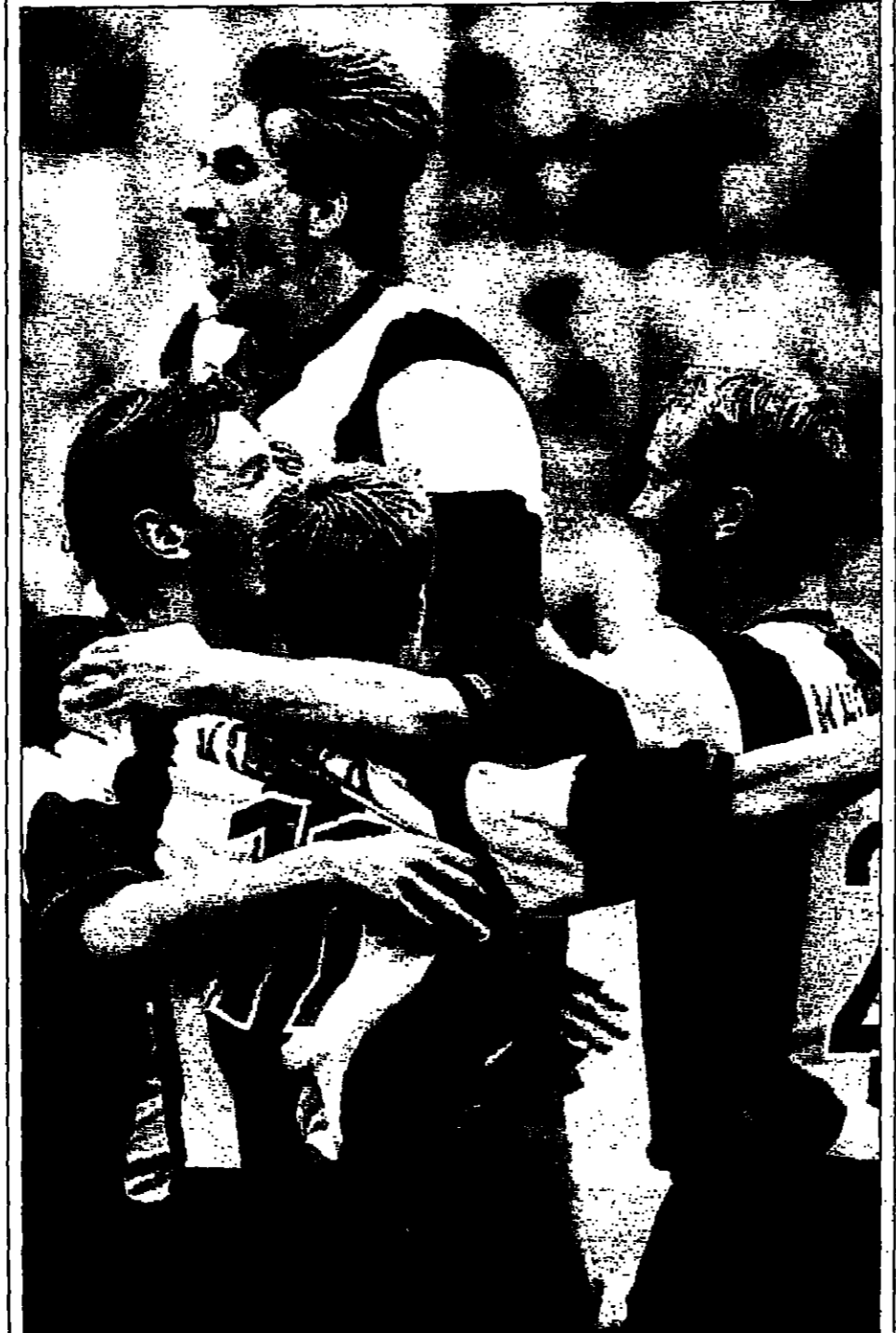
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Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE logo.

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SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

Table with 3 columns: HOME, AWAY, Goal Difference. Lists football clubs and their performance metrics.



PSV Eindhoven players forget the midweek defeat in the European Cup and celebrate their team's second goal against Ajax in the Dutch Supercup yesterday

CONFERENCE

Table with 3 columns: HOME, AWAY, Goal Difference. Lists football clubs and their performance metrics.

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TODAY FOOTBALL: FA Carling Premiership: Arsenal v Nottingham Forest (8.0); Football Conference: Stevenage v Hayes (7.45)...

FRIDAY CRICKET: WOMEN'S THIRD TEST (four days); FOOTBALL: NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnet v Stockport (7.45)...

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE logo.

Table with 3 columns: HOME, AWAY, Goal Difference. Lists football clubs and their performance metrics.

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SCOTLAND

Table with 3 columns: HOME, AWAY, Goal Difference. Lists football clubs and their performance metrics.

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NATIONAL

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGH-AND-LEAGUE: Division 1: Cowie 3, Keith 2, Perth 1...

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Northern Ireland v Scotland (7.30); Football Conference: Stevenage v Hayes (7.45)...

POOLS CHECK

FORECAST: Half-time: no goals scored - winning team automatically forecast to win...

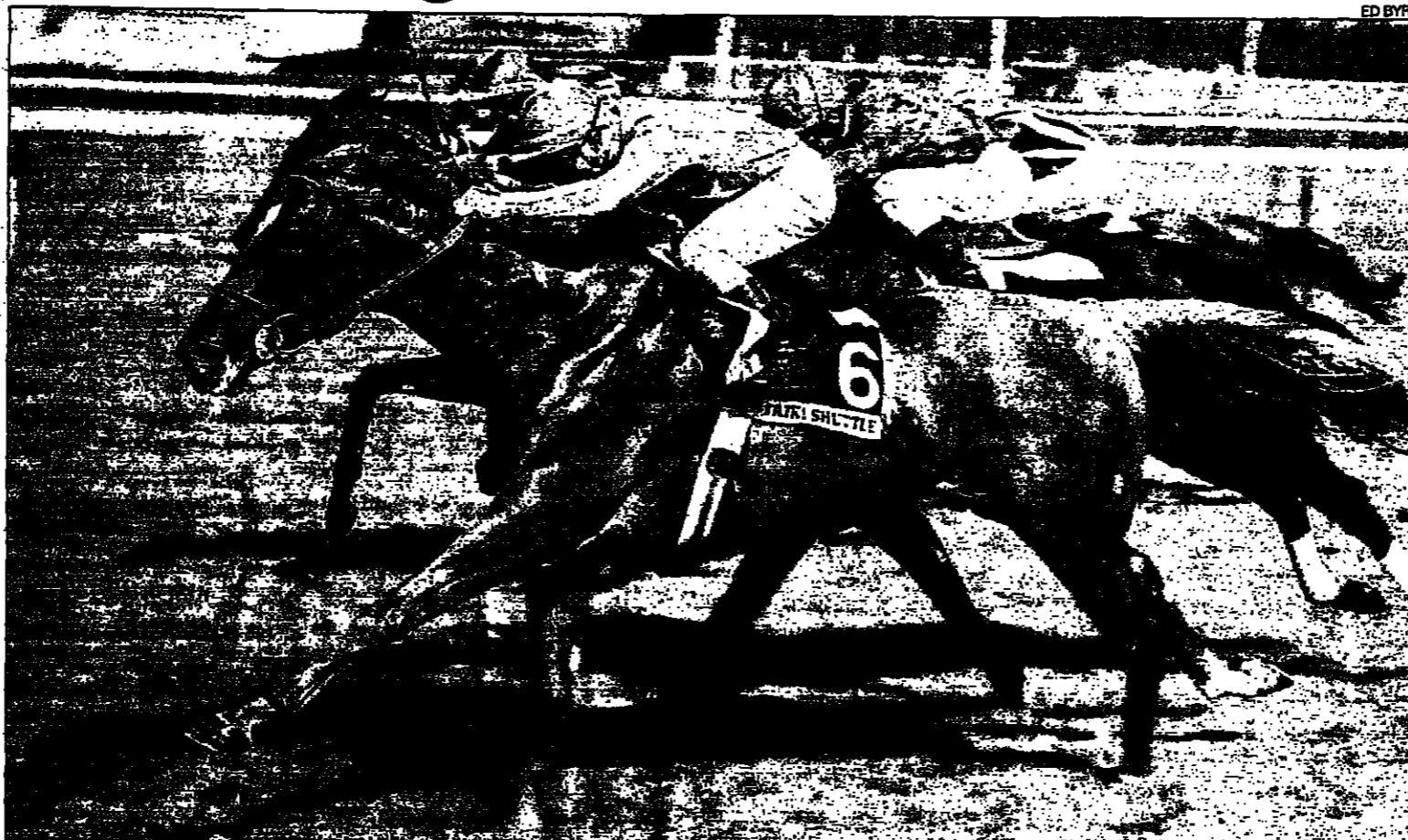
Table with 3 columns: HOME, AWAY, Goal Difference. Lists football clubs and their performance metrics.

son tickets
underscores
new frailty

RACING: ORIENTAL STAR STEALS THUNDER FROM BRITISH RAIDERS IN DEAUVILLE SHOWPIECE

Japanese rise again with Taiki Shuttle

By Richard Evans, RACING CORRESPONDENT



Taiki Shuttle, nearside, proves too powerful for the British challengers in the group one Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville yesterday

THE idea of Japanese horsepower dominating the world is nothing new, after the success of Honda, Toyota and Nissan over the past three decades. But now such a ubiquitous influence looks set to expand from the globe's motorways to its racetracks.

For the second weekend running, a Japanese owned and trained horse plundered a

group one race in France yesterday at the expense of virtually the best opposition Europe could muster - and confirmed that a new chapter in international racing is truly underway.

When the Japanese set their minds on building up a new industry, they do not do it by halves. In a strange way, there is a parallel between the success of their motor industry, created from nothing after the Second World War before emerging as a world leader.

RICHARD EVANS Nap, Tipperary Sunset (3.45 Hamilton Park) This winner of four races last term looks ready to strike for the first time this season after a pre-race effort at Newbury which showed he has the benefit of a high class...

Derby winners such as Dr Devious and Commander in Chief joined the mighty Dancing Brave in the Far East. More recently, the Lord Westminster-owned Pilsudski followed a similar path. So it is hardly surprising that, with a first-rate infrastructure in place, top-class animals from which to breed and ample finance, Japan is now producing world-beaters.

doesn't take much getting ready," he said. In the race run over Deauville's straight mile, there was no early pace and Cape Cross, the Locking Stakes winner, soon found himself in the lead, shadowed by the Japanese raider and Among Men, who tended to pull too hard.

media entourage present, there were emotional scenes in the winner's enclosure. Nobutada Tada, racing manager of the horse's owners, Talka Farms, said: "This is a great moment, my greatest moment in racing. The plan is to go for the Prix du Moulin at Longchamp and then, possibly, the Breeders' Cup."

Asmussen extends York stay after Exclusive offer

CASH ASMUSSEN has extended his unshedded visit to York and will now ride on each of the first two days of the Ebor meeting this week. The American called up by Sir Michael Stoute as a late replacement for Walter Swinburn and Michael Kinane on Exclusive in the Juddmonte International Stakes tomorrow, has picked up four more mounts at a fixture he has missed in France of the last five years because of commitments in France.

His agent, John Hamner, said: "Cash may stay over on Thursday as well, but nothing has been confirmed yet." Asmussen's rides include Cloud Castle for Clive Brittain in the Aston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks on Wednesday. Hamner also reported that he has booked Michael Kinane for rides in 20 of the meeting's 21 races. The only blank for the former Irish champion, who could ride Bini Allayil in the Queen Mary Stakes winner runs in the Peugeot Lowther Stakes on Thursday, is the closing Carbine Club Eglington Nursery tomorrow.



Asmussen in demand

Jack Berry is keen to let the two-year-old Speedy James take on elder rivals in the Persimmon Homes Nunthorpe Stakes on Thursday. But he has his work cut out trying to convince the colt's owner, Edward St George, to go for the group one race. Berry nearly landed the five-furlong event with the two-year-old Paris House, who finished second to Sheikh Albadou in 1992. The trainer said: "I would very much like to run Speedy James, but I need to speak to the owner, who is in Malta. He doesn't think two-year-

DEAUVILLE RESULTS
PROX DU HARAS DE PRESNAY-LE-BUFFARD JACQUES LE MAROIS (FR) F. 3:01.010 (m st)

DEAUVILLE RESULTS (continued)

THUNDERER
2.00 Pegnitz
2.30 King Danus
3.00 Grey Princess
4.00 Dangerous Dancer
4.30 BARRANAK (Nap)

2.00 WEATHERY TURF NEWS PAPERS MAIDEN STAKES
1.01 (6) 04 COLLIERIE (5) (2) M Siggins 3-4
1.02 (2) 02 COPPERNICK 21 (4) M Siggins 3-4

2.30 QUORTINA CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP
2.01 (1) 03-34 THIRSKHORN 10 (9) M J Watson 5-7
2.02 (1) 03-34 THIRSKHORN 10 (9) M J Watson 5-7

3.00 COMPLETE GROUP CONDITIONS STAKES
3.01 (2) 03-34 THIRSKHORN 10 (9) M J Watson 5-7
3.02 (1) 03-34 THIRSKHORN 10 (9) M J Watson 5-7

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: W. Bell, J. Henderson, M. Ryan, etc.
JOCKEYS: R. Bell, J. Henderson, M. Ryan, etc.

3.30 40'S NURSERY HANDICAP (SHOWCASE AND TOTE TRIFECTA)
3.01 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7
3.02 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7

4.00 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION FILLES STAKES
4.01 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7
4.02 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7

4.30 MARLOW ADDITIONAL APPRENTICES HANDICAP
4.01 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7
4.02 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7

LEADERS ON THE FLAT
J. J. Ryan, J. Henderson, M. Ryan, etc.

YESTERDAY'S DETAILS
Ponteefract
2.15 (6) 1, Principally Dream (J. Fortune, 5-4)

Lingfield Park
2.25 (6) 1, Flying (J. Fortune, 5-4)

Newbury
2.00 (7) 1, Alimuhim (R. Hills, 4-1)

Newton Abbot
2.05 (6) 1, 11th (J. Fortune, 5-4)

Ripon
2.10 (1) 1, 11th (J. Fortune, 5-4)

3.45 CAPTAIN J.C. STEWART MEMORIAL
3.01 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7

4.15 EBF RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELEVISION
4.01 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7

4.45 SUNDAY MAIL ROCKAVON HANDICAP
4.01 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7

COURSE SPECIALISTS
D. J. Bell, J. Henderson, M. Ryan, etc.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS
Newbury: 2.00 (7) 1, Alimuhim (R. Hills, 4-1)

HAMILTON
2.15 (6) 1, Principally Dream (J. Fortune, 5-4)

2.15 RACING CHANNEL LIVE AT LUNCHTIME
2.01 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7

2.45 RACING CHANNEL TALKING HORSES
2.01 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7

3.15 RACING CHANNEL TRAINER FILES
2.01 (3) 3403 LEARNED FRIEND 10 (4) S. Mearns 3-7

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4.45 SUNDAY MAIL ROCKAVON HANDICAP (continued)

4.15 EBF RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELEVISION (continued)

4.45 SUNDAY MAIL ROCKAVON HANDICAP (continued)

COURSE SPECIALISTS (continued)

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS (continued)

4.45 SUNDAY MAIL ROCKAVON HANDICAP (continued)

4.15 EBF RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELEVISION (continued)

4.45 SUNDAY MAIL ROCKAVON HANDICAP (continued)

COURSE SPECIALISTS (continued)

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS (continued)

4.45 SUNDAY MAIL ROCKAVON HANDICAP (continued)

4.15 EBF RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELEVISION (continued)

4.45 SUNDAY MAIL ROCKAVON HANDICAP (continued)

COURSE SPECIALISTS (continued)

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS (continued)

The big names will be competing for prestige, not money, at the European athletics championships in Hungary, David Powell reports



Despite injuries and questions of drug abuse, Drechsler's commitment has not been at fault

Drechsler aims for another European record

Once again, in European championship year, Heike Drechsler has timed her form to perfection. After two seasons without a long jump over seven metres, apart from one wind-assisted effort of 7.02 metres, Drechsler has leapt through that barrier in two competitions immediately prior to Budapest. Now for the leap into history.

If Drechsler wins this week, she will equal the number of consecutive victories in one event that is held jointly by Janis Lusis, in the men's javelin, and Nadezhda Chizhova, in the women's shot. However, Drechsler would guarantee herself an unprecedented 16-year reign as a European champion.

Lusis and Chizhova, representing the Soviet Union, each achieved their four wins in the Sixties and Seventies, when the gap between championships varied between two and four years. Lusis was champion for nine years, Chizhova for eight.

Since 1978, the championships have been staged every four years, meaning that Drechsler, having recorded the first of her three victories in 1986, would be champion until 2002 should she win in Budapest.

In Leverkusen eight days ago, Drechsler jumped 7.12 metres wind-assisted and, in the Zurich grand prix last Wednesday, she finished as the top European, second only to Marion Jones. There, Drechsler recorded a legal 7.05 metres. It is evident now that the German has recovered from the two Achilles tendon operations that she had last winter.

The cut of the knife followed cuts to the heart that go with three seasons of failure. Ninth in the 1995 world championships, Drechsler missed the 1996 Olympic Games while recovering from knee trouble and, last year, in the world championships, she was outside the medals again, finishing fourth.

Should Drechsler make European history, her record would come with the knowledge that she was part of the systematic doping in several sports in East Germany prior to 1990. Professor Werner Franke, a molecular biologist,

was appointed by the German parliament to investigate East German methods and he uncovered Stasi secret police files documenting drug abuse. Franke's claims were backed by confessions from some competitors. In the Stasi files, Drechsler was known as W61. The W stood for weitsprung (long jump). Drechsler had been on file since she was a teenager.

Drechsler has never admitted to taking drugs, but she was ordered to pay costs after losing a legal battle with Brigitte Berendonk, Franke's wife, who named Drechsler as a participant in the East German system. After initially denying the accusation, published in a book, *Doping Dokumente*, Drechsler shifted her ground, saying that, if she had taken drugs, it was without her knowledge.

After the Berlin prosecutor's investigations, a criminal trial opened in April, with coaches and doctors from the old regime accused of injuring competitors through forced use of steroids. As Heike Daute, Drechsler had emerged as the East German sports machine's secret weapon at the 1983 world championships in Helsinki.

Aged 17 and even in the company of Anisoara Cusmir, a Romanian who had set three world records in the previous two months, Daute dominated the competition. Every year, from 1981 to 1988, Drechsler jumped over 7.00 metres. In 1986, she set world records for the 200 metres and long jump.

Drechsler's present form is partly due to her freedom from injury, partly because of the weight lifted from her shoulders in the battle for custody of her son, Toni. Divorced from her husband, she lives in Karlsruhe with Alain Blondel, the European decathlon champion, her boyfriend and coach.

While Drechsler's reputation will always be tarnished by drugs, her longevity, from world champion at 18, to defending European champion at 33, speaks volumes for her commitment. How much she has been driven by medals and how much the fall of the Berlin Wall had to do with it all, we can only guess.

☞ If she wins Drechsler will equal the number of consecutive wins in one event and create a record 16-year reign as a European champion ☞



The Formula One grand prix in Budapest is over, but, as the European athletics championships move in on the Hungarian capital and as the high-performance human engines warm up, the sound of hard braking can still be heard. It comes from the fast-turning wheels of the athletics grand prix screeching temporarily to a halt.

In these avaricious times, with seemingly the majority of sportsmen out for all they can get, the trick being performed by the European Athletic Association (EAA) is one that other professional sporting governing bodies might envy. The seventeenth European championships, beginning tomorrow, have attracted a strong entry without paying prize-money or appearance fees.

The trick is an illusion. Behind the apparent free service being provided by the athletes, there are many reasons why the EAA has resisted the step towards prize-money that has been taken so lustily by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) over the past two years.

The IAAF introduced world championship prize-money last year, offering \$5 million (about £3.2 million) and this year, for the first time, it has put up cash rewards for the World Cup, including \$50,000

Starved British wait to feast on Budapest gold

for each winner. The IAAF grand prix is richer than ever, with the Golden League division carrying \$7 million.

Jonathan Edwards may fancy himself as a driver — he owned a £65,000 Porsche until recently — but it is as a triple jumper that he will be in Budapest. Like most other leading European athletes, Edwards is competing despite knowing that a gold medal at the world championships last year would have earned him \$60,000 in prize-money, but, at this year's main championship, it comes on its own.

The EAA was confident all along. "The athletes will be there," Till Luft, the EAA secretary, said last December. But why was he so sure? The mechanism is explained by Wilfried Meert, EAA councilor and director of the Golden League meeting in Brussels.

"It is a combination of reasons," Meert said. "The athlete's sponsor requests it. The federation, which gives subventions, also requests it. Then there is personal prestige



Edwards: strong chance

and sponsors' bonuses for medals. This is one of the few opportunities to become a star, to make a name."

Great Britain is the prime example of a country starved of global gold but likely to feast in Budapest. There are five events in which Britain have a fair to good chance of winning and another six in

which victory is expected: at 400 metres (Mark Richardson or Iwan Thomas); 110 metres hurdles (Colin Jackson), triple jump (Edwards), javelin (Steve Backley), men's 4 x 100 metres and men's 4 x 400 metres.

This after no gold medals at the 1996 Olympic Games or 1997 world championships. Germany and Russia are Britain's challengers to top the medals table. Germany has the biggest team, 109 athletes against Britain's 68, but it is an ageing one.

In the football World Cup, age caught up with Germany. It may do here. Of the ten athletes that Frank Henzel, the Germany coach, cites as potential winners, six are over 30: Heinz Weis (hammer), Dieter Baumann (5,000 metres), Sven Buder (shot), Lars Riedel (discus), Sabine Braun (heptathlon) and Heike Drechsler (long jump).

Ironically, the German federation (DLV) is celebrating old age this year. It was formed 100 years ago. Britain, on the other hand, is acknowl-

edging youth. After taking four gold medals at the world junior championships and winning the men's European Cup with much new blood, several British gold-medal contenders in Budapest are in their early to mid-twenties: Richardson and Thomas; Darren Campbell, Dwan Chambers and Marlon Devonish, in the 100 metres; Dougie Walker, in the 200 metres; Paula Radcliffe, in the 10,000 metres; and Denise Lewis, in the heptathlon.

Germany removed any temptation among its athletes to miss Budapest by imposing one rule. "If you want to compete for Germany in the World Cup, where you can get a lot of money from the IAAF, you have to produce a good result in the European championships," was the message.

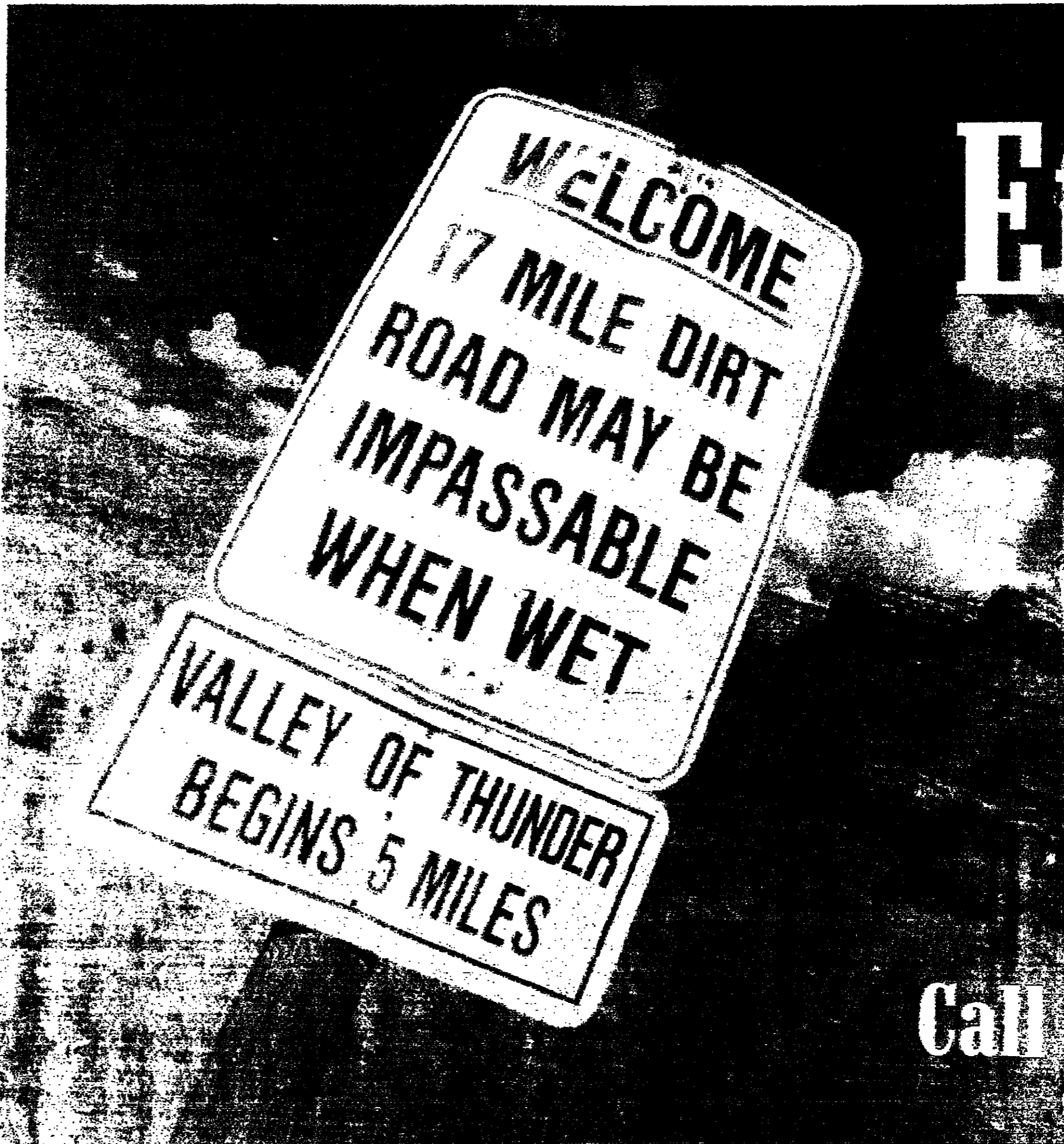
For Spanish athletes, a podium place in the European championships means an immediate elevation to the top

level Government-funded salary of \$50,000. For athletes from all countries, victory guarantees a place on the European circuit and the money that goes with it.

Meert, whose Brussels meeting is on August 28, added: "I feel a moral duty to take the European champion in every event on my programme to support European athletics, even if the performance is not so good as from two or three Americans."

"Then the athlete goes into the prize-money system. If he has a lane, he immediately goes for the prize-money, otherwise an American or an African goes for it." Financially, though, there is little gain in appearance money for a European champion.

"For the grand prix, there is no big value in being European champion," Jacky Dela Pierre, promoter of the Lausanne grand prix, the first after Budapest, said. "Being a European champion does not make a big difference, maybe \$2,000." To the average Hungarian, \$2,000 would make a huge difference. Nepestadion translates to People's Stadium, but it seems destined to be the stadium of few people over the next week. "The tickets are expensive," Tamas Ambrus, a Budapest sportswriter, said. "I am afraid there will be few spectators."



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38 SPORT

AUSTRALIAN RULES

Table with columns for teams (Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, etc.), P, W, L, D, and A. Includes sub-sections for National League and West Coast.

BADMINTON

SINGAPORE OPEN: Final: Men's singles, H. Henson (USA) 15-10, 15-10 vs R. Christian (USA) 15-10, 15-10.

BASEBALL

Table with columns for teams (NY Yankees, Boston, Baltimore, etc.), East division, and West division.

ATHLETICS

WATFORD: UK Women's League: First division: 100m: 1. M Richardson (Worship)... 200m: 1. M Richardson (Worship)...

FOR THE RECORD

Home Counties League: Sussex 1st: 1000 runs... National League: West Coast 1st: 1000 runs...

GLIDING

LASHAM: Hampshire National Open championships: 1st: R. P. Pym...

BOXING

EL PASO, Texas: World Boxing Council featherweight championship: 1st: E. Espinoza...

EQUESTRIANISM

BATCOMBE PARK: British Open Horse Trials: 1st: R. P. Pym...

GOLF

ROYAL LYTHAM AND ST ANNES: West-End British Women's Open: 1st: G. Green...

HOUSING

474, 70: B Burton (US) 71, 77, 77, 77, 294:3... 475, 70: B Burton (US) 71, 77, 77, 77, 294:3...

MOTOR RALLYING

WALSLEY: National amateur championships: 1st: R. P. Pym...

SQUASH

MELBOURNE: Australian Open Women's: 1st: R. P. Pym...

SAILING

STRANDE: German Star European championships: 1st: R. P. Pym...

SCHOOLS SPORT

CRICKET: Staffordshire Under-14: 1st: R. P. Pym...

SHOOTING

OTTAWA: Canadian national championships: 1st: R. P. Pym...

HOUSING

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THE TIMES Bloomberg City League advertisement. Includes text: 'The Times teamed up with Bloomberg to create an additional league within The Times fantasy league game.'

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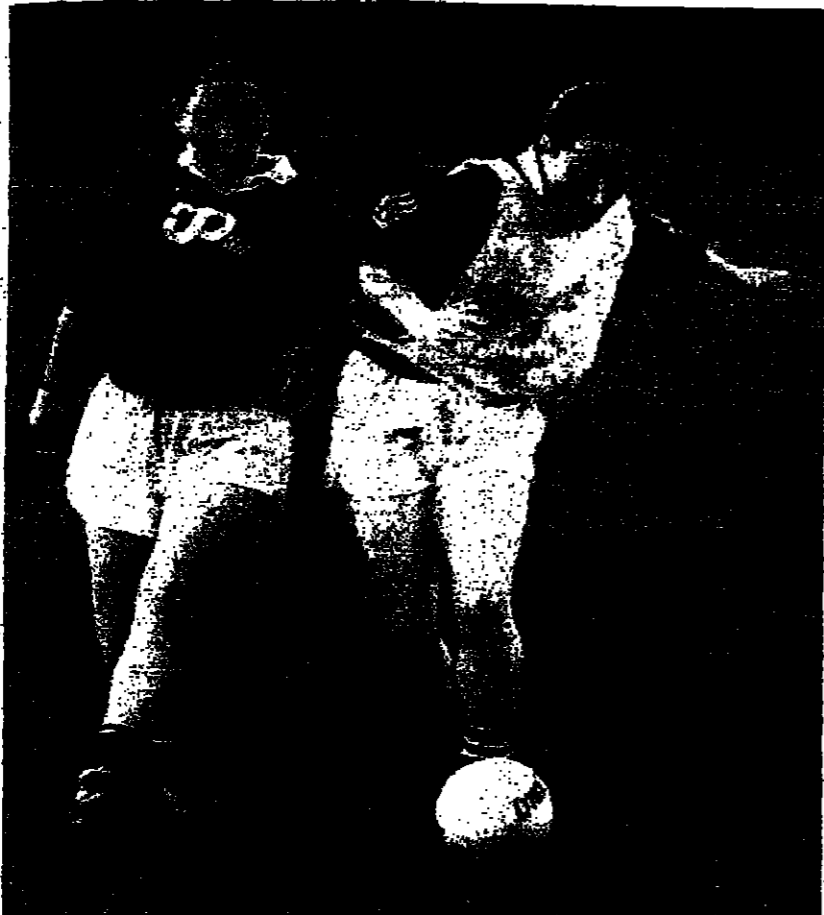
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Large advertisement for 'Green p... breater... by exoc...'. Includes a large image of a person's face and the text 'Green p... breater... by exoc...'. Also includes 'A FORTHOOD COMPANY GOLF'.

هكذا من لا يصلح

Danielle Demetriou on the problem that is undermining women's Gaelic football



Commitment and enthusiasm is graphically captured on the faces of the players of the Parnells club in North London. Photographs: Simon Brooke-Webb

Green party threatened by exodus

The luck of the Irish appears to be running out for Gaelic sports clubs in England. Hundreds of talented players are being enticed back to better-paid jobs in Ireland, leaving dozens of clubs struggling to raise a side. Many Irish people who previously came to England for better job prospects are now returning home and traditional sports, such as Gaelic football, hurling and camogie, have all been affected by the exodus. One sport has been hit particularly hard, women's Gaelic football. More than a third of the female players in England have moved back to Ireland in the past three years. Player-poaching, rivalry and fierce competition have become a fact of life for the remaining clubs. The rise of Gaelic football has mirrored the success of rugby, and the two games are

SPORT FOR ALL

Many enthusiasts claim that the women's game is more fun to watch because it is non-physical. Women are not allowed to pull, drag or shoulder-charge other players. As a result, the play is more skilful and the game is faster. Patricia O'Brian, from the Parnells club in North London, has played the game with both sexes. At the age of ten, she started playing Gaelic foot-

ball with boys because there were not enough girls to form a team. She later played with women — for two Irish counties as well as Parnells. As both a player and spectator, she prefers the feminine version of the game. "I find women's games faster to play and more attractive to watch than the men's," she said. "The women fumble around less than the men." In Ireland today, Gaelic football is the most popular sport, both to play and to watch. There are at least 900,000 Gaelic footballers in Ireland and more than 60,000 people turn up to watch the All-Ireland championship finals at Croke Park, Dublin every year. It is also popular in the United States and Australia — where Australian Rules football is based on the Gaelic game. Back in England, Irish players may be leaving, but a large

number of them are already at home. Many players of Irish descent have lived in England all their lives. Affectionately known as "Plastic Paddys", they are a common sight in the Gaelic football world. It is not only women of Irish blood who are attracted to the pace and style of the game. There are a growing number of women who do not have Irish backgrounds who are turning to Gaelic football as a refreshing alternative to standard games. Maria King, a teacher, has no Irish connections, but plays with Clan a Gael, the South London club. She turned to Gaelic football when she be-

came bored with conventional sport and was looking for a challenge. "I enjoy playing because it's quick and competitive," she said. Some players come from even further afield. Meredith Holly, from San Francisco, has spent her six-month stay in England playing with Clan a Gael. Ursula Rooney, from Switzerland, who plays with the Holloway Gaels, took up Gaelic football four years ago after marrying an Irishman. Despite the growing interest of non-Irish players, club sizes are shrinking. Clubs are actively encouraging women, regardless of age, experience or nationality, to join the game.

more than 50 per cent of female players are Irish, and a lot of them are going home. Father Murphy's, the largest club, has lost nearly 20 per cent of its Irish players in the past year. Darren Howling, the club coach, feels that it is important for clubs to welcome anyone who wants to play. "It's really difficult trying to keep the team going at the moment as we've lost so many Irish players. We scout for any nationality," he said. Clan a Gael have also been hit hard by Irish players going home. Once at the top end of the league, the club has lost almost a third of its players in the past 18 months. Theresa

O'Connell, the club secretary, believes that, as a result, the game has become more competitive. Poaching of players is increasingly common. "Poaching is awful, but it happens. It's so disheartening for players, as all the strongest footballers end up in the biggest and best clubs, and the rest of us are left behind struggling to keep up," O'Connell said. The future may be uncertain, but the remaining players insist that women's Gaelic football is here to stay. To judge by the growing number of British women who are joining in the fun, it will be around for quite some time.

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have hosted their golf parties for the 1993 Challenge. The top 100 individual scorers on the day will win a company from which to qualify for regional final.

TRIP SPONSOR: Mees Pierson

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14 AUG	CALDER (NO) LTD	ROYAL BELFAST	80
14 AUG	CITY ELECTRICAL FACTORS	BOLTON OLD LINKS	100
14 AUG	DATA CONNECTION LTD	ENFIELD	46
14 AUG	DANES GROUP LTD	HAZELING	120
14 AUG	H THURMER & SON LTD	ARDEYDALE	70
14 AUG	HEALTHCARE	HANGURY MANOR	28
14 AUG	HYMANS ROBERTSON	ROYAL BURGESS	40
		GOLFING SOC. OF EDINBURGH	
14 AUG	ILION	WOBURN	16
14 AUG	M R S UK	CELTIC MANOR	120
14 AUG	NORTON OPTOELECTRONICS DIVISION	CHURSTON	60
14 AUG	RIDGEMANS	KINGS LYNN	38
14 AUG	TREVOR JONES	BRICKENDON GRANGE	35
15 AUG	BARNWELL ENTERPRISES	CHIEFF	50
16 AUG	BARNWELL ENTERPRISES	MURRAYSHALL	50
16 AUG	SEEDS PACKAGING & PRINTING LTD	BRAMPTON HEATH	24
18 AUG	TARMAC TOPMAX LTD	WALSALL	16
19 AUG	BLUE CIRCLE INDUSTRIES PLC	WOBURN	36
19 AUG	KEDDY SERVICES LTD	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	40
19 AUG	LOGMOOR BUILDERS LTD	KINGS NORTON	27
19 AUG	MCSHARRY BROS BERDO IRL	ROSCOMMON	25
19 AUG	STRATHMORE MINERAL WATER CO	STRATHMORE	24
20 AUG	ALLEN & OVERY	HADLEY WOOD	50
20 AUG	COMPAG	SHANDON PARK	66
20 AUG	GAP RECRUITMENT	CARDEN PARK	25
20 AUG	RANKLEISURE MACHINE SERVICES	PATSHALL PARK	100
21 AUG	ANGEL ROOFING LTD	DUKES DENE	80
21 AUG	CORE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (UK) LTD	HATFIELD LONDON COUNTRY CLUB	25
21 AUG	JOHNSTONE LOGIE & MILLAR G A	SCOTSGRANG	40
21 AUG	SOLLITA UK LTD	GREENMEADOW	46
21 AUG	THE SAINT JAMES PARTNERSHIP	LANGLAND BAY	35

WHERE TO PLAY: There are 15 women's clubs in England and all have their own training grounds. In the London area, there are clubs at Ealing, Finsbury Park, Neasden, Cricklewood, Holloway, Hendon, Wood Green and Heston. Outside London the clubs can be found in Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester, Manchester and Reading.

HOW TO JOIN: Work out which is your nearest club and apply directly to the London County Board of Ladies' Gaelic Football (0171-490 7968).

UNDER-16 CLUBS: Players can start as young as six at Ealing, Hendon, Heston, Leicester and all three Birmingham clubs.

TRAINING: Experienced players and beginners are welcome to join clubs. There is a training scheme for beginners at each club.

INSURANCE: Gaelic football is the only amateur sport in Great Britain that has an injury fund. Injury insurance is included in the registration fee.

SPECTATORS: The biggest British event of the year is the London ladies' championship. The finals will take place this year at Parnell Park, Kingsbury on October 18. The All-Ireland ladies' championship finals are at Croke Park, Dublin next month.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Tommy Donahue (0181-352 2366).

SPEEDWAY
Nahlin signing to stir up Witches

By Tony Hoare

JON COOK, the Eastbourne Eagles promoter, has admitted he re-signed Peter Nahlin in a final bid to get the upper hand on Ipswich Witches. Nahlin, the Swedish rider, replaces Gary Havelock and will make his debut on Saturday against Swindon, his former club. Cook dismissed Havelock last week and drafted in Nahlin to make the Eagles more competitive for the forthcoming Craven Shield matches. Havelock never settled in his first season with the Sussex team and a poor run of results in the past few weeks proved to be the final straw for Cook. Nahlin became part of Eastbourne folklore during his first spell with the club and saved the team from relegation with victory in his final race in 1992. This time, he has been brought in to help them save their season by picking up the Craven Shield, for which the top six Elite League clubs will compete on a knockout basis after the league campaign is completed. Cook said: "In 1992 the club was on its knees and Peter came in to keep us in the league. He has always been phenomenally popular here." The Eagles have lost only four home matches this season, but all have been against Ipswich and the two clubs have exchanged hostile words since the Suffolk club won there for the third time. "This team change is to reward our public for the defeats against Ipswich, those have hurt our supporters a lot," Cook said. "We have three league matches left and hopefully some in the Craven Shield as well so this is a treat for our fans."

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

WIN TICKETS TO SEE ENGLAND v SRI LANKA
Plus a £200 rug and a Harrods hamper

Today *The Times* has teamed up with traditional Savile Row tailors Gieves and Hawkes, official off-pitch clothing sponsor for Surrey County Cricket Club, to offer readers the chance to win tickets for the England v Sri Lanka Test Match at the Oval starting on Thursday August 27.

We have four pairs of tickets to give away as prizes: two pairs for Thursday August 27 and two pairs for Sunday August 30.

The winners will also receive a Gieves and Hawkes cashmere and wool rug worth £200, a Harrods picnic hamper worth £90, plus a bottle of wine. The picnic hamper includes delicious delicacies such as parcels of smoked salmon and prawns, baby artichoke and crab quiche and summer pudding.

Return transport will be provided by car in London, first class train and taxi outside London, to mainland UK residents only.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply phone our competition hotline 0660 11 11 86 with the answer to this question:
How many royal warrants does Gieves and Hawkes hold?

The lines will be open until midnight on Thursday, August 20. The winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNT competition rules apply.

GIEVES & HAWKES
141 SAVILE ROW LONDON

0660 calls are charged at 50p per minute

CHANGING TIMES

Law Report August 17 1998 Court of Appeal

Protecting wife's interest in matrimonial property

Royal Bank of Scotland v Erridge and associated cases. Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Morritt. Judgment July 31. The Court of Appeal gave guidance as to what constituted independent legal advice to be afforded to wives in cases where the wife was considering entering into a transaction to charge the matrimonial home by way of collateral security for her husband's liability to the bank.

(i) Mrs Susan Erridge from possession orders made by Judge Behrens, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division on February 26, 1998 in favour of the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Trustees of the Ambetta Pension Fund.

(ii) Mrs Beryl Harris from an order of Judge Auld in Birmingham County Court on January 12, 1998 dismissing her appeal against a possession order made against her in favour of Barclays Bank plc.

(iii) Mrs Judith Moore from an order of Judge Holden at Reading County Court on May 6, 1997 granting a possession order in favour of UCB HomeLoans Corporation Ltd and dismissing her appeal from the judge's order striking out her action against Les F Zehaus, trading as Southern Assurance Services.

(iv) Mrs Anna Wallace from a possession order made by Mr Justice Lloyd dated October 24, 1996 in favour of Midland Bank plc.

(v) Mrs Marie Gill from a possession order made by Mr Recorder Paulus at Bournemouth County Court on September 19, 1997 in favour of National Westminster Bank plc.

(vi) Mrs Rose Lucken from the order of Judge Bromley, QC, in Cambridge County Court on January 29, 1998 giving leave to Lloyds Bank plc to amend its reply and defence to counterclaim in respect of possession proceedings. The court allowed the appeal. Lloyds Bank from the refusal of Judge Bromley to make a possession order against Mrs Lucken in favour of the bank.

Mr Richard Mawrey, QC and Mr Simon Whalley for Mrs Erridge; Mr Michael Briggs, QC and Miss Amanda Harrington for the Royal Bank of Scotland; Miss Elizabeth Weaver for the trustees of the Ambetta Pension Fund. Mr Stephen Whittaker for Mrs Harris; Mr David Wolfson for Barclays Bank plc. Mr Nicholas Yell for Mrs Moore; Mr Thomas Putnam for UCB HomeLoans Corporation; Mr Nicholas Underhill, QC and Mr Adam Tolley for Les F Zehaus; Mr James Murray, QC and Mr Mark Lym for Mrs Wallace; Mr Clive Jones for Midland Bank. Mr Benjamin Levy for Mrs Gill; Mr Nicholas Lerego, QC and Mr Nicholas Briggs for National Westminster Bank. Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC and Miss Michelle Stevens-Hoare for Mrs Lucken; Mr John Robson for Lloyds Bank.

Need to protect witnesses

First American Corporation and Another v Al-Nahyan and Others. Clark Clifford and Others v First American Corporation and Others. Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Schiemann. Judgment May 12. The court was not barred by section 2 of the Evidence (Proceedings in Other Jurisdictions) Act 1975 from acceding to letters of request which sought to have intended witnesses orally examined on the ground that they constituted "fishing".

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR set out sections 2(3) and (4) of the 1975 Act in clear and concise subsection (4) was directed against "fishing" applications for documents. The subsection did not apply to oral testimony. Such jurisdictional limitations as were imposed on the court's power to order oral testimony to be taken had to be spelled out in subsection (3). The question whether and to what extent, subsection (3) barred "fishing" applications for oral testimony was one of some importance in the present case and one on which the state of the authorities did not seem to be very satisfactory.

His Lordship reviewed those authorities, and in particular the dissenting judgment of Lord Justice Ralph Gibson in In re State of Norway's Application (1987) 1 QB 433, and the judgment of Lord Justice Woolf in In re State of Norway's Application (No 2) [1991] 1 AC 723 with which his Lordship was in complete agreement. Section 3(3) of the 1975 Act barred the court from making an order for oral testimony to be taken pursuant to a letter of request unless the order was of a type that could have been made for the purpose of obtaining oral testimony for domestic litigation.

It was therefore clear enough that subsection (4) was directed against "fishing" applications for documents. The subsection did not apply to oral testimony. Such jurisdictional limitations as were imposed on the court's power to order oral testimony to be taken had to be spelled out in subsection (3). The question whether and to what extent, subsection (3) barred "fishing" applications for oral testimony was one of some importance in the present case and one on which the state of the authorities did not seem to be very satisfactory.

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Barrister gave undertaking without authority

Connolly-Martin v D. Before Mr Justice Sedley. Judgment July 21. Neither the common law as to the scope of the duty of care nor the advocate's immunity from suit in relation to matters intimately related to litigation, precluded bringing an action for negligence and/or breach of warranty against a barrister who, without express authority so to do, gave an undertaking on behalf of his lay clients to pay money into a special account to abide the outcome of proceedings and then wrongly advised his clients that they were not bound by the undertaking.

Mr Justice Sedley, sitting as an additional judge of the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved chambers judgment delivered in part an appeal from the order of Master Morking dated March 29, 1998 striking out the plaintiff's claim for damages for negligence and/or breach of warranty as having no reasonable prospect of success. Both parties were given leave to appeal.

His Lordship made an order preventing the defendant from being identified in any report. Mr David Richardson for the plaintiff, Ms Marion Smith for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said that the plaintiff was the assignee for value of the debts and rights of action of her former company, Ashley Site Management Ltd (ASML). In 1991 ASML brought an action against Spearhead Tech-

nical Consultancy Ltd for a sum in excess of £150,000 for labour, materials and plant provided to Spearhead for use on the Euro Disney site in France. ASML received nothing in satisfaction of their judgment. The plaintiff's case was that by entering into, and subsequently reaffirming, the undertaking given on November 1 and 15 respectively, the defendant had warranted that he had authority so to do; further or alternatively the defendant owed ASML a duty of care not to misrepresent Spearhead's position, and to advise Spearhead of the nature and effect of the undertaking given by him on their behalf, duties which the defendant allegedly breached in two distinct contexts, by giving and continuing the undertaking without authority and by, at court or otherwise, advising Spearhead that they were not bound by the undertakings.

The undertaking given by the defendant bound Spearhead in respect of the want of specific authority, because the undertaking came within both the defendant's general authority and counsel's general authority, unless expressly limited. Moreover, by keeping the cheque for £105,393 in France until advised by the defendant that the undertaking was no longer binding, Spearhead's conduct suggested that they considered themselves bound by the undertaking until the defendant told them they were not.

While a lawyer generally owed no duty of care to the other side in litigation, see Al-Kandari v J. R. Brown & Co (1988) QB 665, a special assumption of responsibility could create a duty of care where otherwise there was none: see Jones (1992) 2 AC 207; Welsh v Chief Constable of Merseyside (1993) 1 All ER 692.

In Midland Bank plc v Cameron (1988) SLT 611, in which a bank sued a solicitor for making negligent assertions about the state of a client's finances thereby inducing them to lend him a large sum of money, Lord Jauncey tested the existence of a solicitor's alleged duty of care to a third party by four criteria: (i) the solicitor must have assumed responsibility for advising or informing the third party; (ii) he must have put himself forward to the third party as possessing the requisite skills; (iii) the third party must have relied upon it; and (iv) the solicitor must have been aware that he was likely so to do.

Disclosure to combat fraud

Pharoan and Others v Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA. Price Waterhouse intervening. Price Waterhouse v Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA (in liquidation) and Others. Before Mr Justice Rattee. Judgment July 23. The public interest in making confidential documents relating to the alleged fraud of an international bank available to parties to an inter-country litigation directed towards exposing such fraud outweighed the public interest in preserving the confidentiality in those documents.

The court could therefore permit a person who owed duties of confidentiality directly to the bank and vicariously to its customers to disclose such documents in order to enable him to comply with a subpoena issued in the course of those foreign proceedings, notwithstanding that to do so could entail not only breaches of confidentiality but also the terms of an inter-country injunction granted by the domestic court in favour of the customer of the bank restraining the disclosure of any documents relating to that customer's account and business, and involving the risk that the documents would become available to the world at large.

Disclosure should, however, be limited to what was reasonably necessary to achieve the purpose of the public interest in disclosure, and the court could accordingly order that the documents be suitably redacted. Mr Justice Rattee so held in a judgment in the Chancery Division when granting the application of Price Waterhouse, intervener in the first action and plaintiff in the second, to compel it to comply with a subpoena issued by First American Corporation and First American Bankshares Inc, plaintiffs in proceedings pending in the USA and second and third defendants to the second action,

against Price Waterhouse requiring disclosure of documents relating to the customers and business of the defendant, Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which had gone into liquidation. In proceedings pending in the United States District Court, First American Corporation and First American Bankshares Incorporated alleged that BCCI fraudulently conspired to obtain control of First American by acquiring through nominees control of First American's holding company, Credit and Commerce American Holdings NV.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS - FOOD, RETAILERS - GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS - FOOD, RETAILERS - GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

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COMPANIES FRASER NELSON



A triumph for PR as effects of WPP expansion come to light

TODAY Interims: Anglo Pacific Group, Card Clear, Golden Hope Plantations, ITE Group, LLP Group, Polyhedron Holdings, Quarto Group, Severfield-Reeve, Uglan International, WPP Group. Final: Future Integrated. TOMORROW Interims: Ben Bailey, Emsc, Mersey Docks & Harbour Company, Newsquest. Economic statistics: July public sector finances, July retail prices index, United States Federal Open Market Committee meeting. WEDNESDAY Interims: Micro Focus Group, JN Nichols (Vinto), Rentokil Initial, Rosebys, Shires Smaller Companies, Weir Group. Final: Armitage Brothers, Game, Liberty, Trifast Group. Economic statistics: July retail sales. THURSDAY Interims: T Clarke, Computacenter, Metal Bulletin, Save Group, VFG. Economic statistics: Second-quarter provisional gross domestic product, July provision at M4, British Bankers' Association end-of-July bank lending, Building Societies' Association July building society lending, July final MO, UK July car production. FRIDAY Final: Brown & Jackson. Economic statistics: British Retail Consortium quarterly economic monitor.

WPP: After a year spent acquiring advertising agencies in emerging markets, the City will be keen to see how WPP is shaping up after Martin Sorrell's ambitious expansion plans. The company returns its interim results today, and its emerging markets should generate 20 per cent of the profits. The bearish analysts will be looking for any signs that the global upturn in advertising spending is drawing to a close. Competition is also expected to be a key issue. In July, Ford, WPP's biggest client, switched two significant accounts to Young & Rubicam - and some analysts are hoping that Mr Sorrell will use today as an opportunity to announce new contracts. Public relations is expected to become WPP's fastest-growing division, with sales of £67.3 million (£54.5 million) for the half-year. Underlying growth in PR should exceed 20 per cent, advertising should be up a strong 6.8 per cent and group margins could well improve by 1 percentage point. Merrill Lynch expects pre-tax profits to grow 19 per cent to £33.4 million in the six months to June 30. Headline earnings should be 8.4p (7.04p) per share and the interim dividend should grow to 0.9p (0.7p).



Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP, will be reporting to investors on his Eastern expansion

CARD CLEAR: Shares of the credit card security company have still failed to recover from the abrupt departure of its chief executive and finance director, who left after making 'misrepresentations' to the board. As Card Clear is an anti-fraud company, the boardroom fracas is especially embarrassing, and has severely damaged its credibility in the City. But its supporters think that business has carried on apace - and expect the company to return robust half-year profits today which may spark a re-rating of the shares. News of its search for a new chief executive is also expected. Pre-tax profits should be £2.3 million (£1.9 million) and the dividend 0.5p (0.25p).

RENTOKIL INITIAL: Sir Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, should again live up to his 'Mr 20 per cent' nickname when the company returns its half-year results on Wednesday. After shaking out even more

cost savings from the BET acquisition, Rentokil should be able to increase margins by 11 percentage points, to 16.6 per cent. With expected underlying growth of 7 per cent, Sir Clive should be returning pre-tax profits of 20.1 per cent, to £23 million, at the halfway stage. But attention will be focused on current trading. Many in the

City believe that the company will be hard pushed to keep up its rate of sales growth in the second half. So to keep up the magic 20 per cent figure, Sir Clive will have to lift margins even higher. BT Alex Brown thinks this is unlikely, and expects disappointing news. Earnings should be 5.7p

(4.74p) per share. An interim dividend of 1.07p (0.89p) is due.

ROSEBYS: The bedding company is expected to emerge as one of the few household furnishing stocks to have avoided the worst of the sector's downturns when it issues its interim results on Wednesday. It should have strongly benefited from the strength of the pound, and by selling a higher-margin mix of products. Its Roxmore division is expected to be outpacing the Rosebys/Knightingales format. Bonsons should contribute £1 million of operating profit, against £650,000 last time, and deliver double-digit underlying sales growth.

Pre-tax profits should be £3.7 million (£3.2 million) for the six months to June 30, leaving an interim dividend of 3.45p (3.1p) per share.

WEIR: When will Weir Group find a use for its growing cash pile? The engineering company was collecting interest on £19 million of savings at the end of last year, and the City will be keen to know if it has found something better to do with the funds. The company has done well to secure orders in stiff market conditions, and demand was up 15 per cent to £650 million at the end of last year.

But the City fears that not all of this will translate into profits. Cancellation rates are exceeding new orders in some parts of the sector - and Weir's suppliers may also be having difficulties turning orders around quickly enough. Analysts' attention will be fixed on the pressures of production process, and whether it has been affected by cancellations. It should make £32.4 million (£27.5 million) of pre-tax profit for the six months to June 30 and earnings of 11.5p (9.98p) per share. A 2.9p (2.5p) payout is expected.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Inflation figure falls under the spotlight

A busy week for British economic statistics kicks off tomorrow with the July figures for retail price inflation. Given the Bank of England's prediction last week that underlying inflation will virtually hit the Government's 2.5 per cent target, these figures are of particular interest to the markets. The consensus of market forecasts compiled by Standard & Poor's MMS is for underlying inflation to fall to 2.6 per cent, just above target, from the 2.8 per cent rate recorded in June. Standard & Poor's prediction is for headline inflation to fall to 3.6 per cent from 3.7 per cent.

The latest figures for public borrowing are also published tomorrow. The market is expecting a public sector net cash requirement (the Government's replacement measure for the old public sector borrowing requirement) of minus £2.5 billion, in other words, a net repayment. This is not as impressive as a repayment of nearly £4 billion a year ago but is in stark contrast to the borrowing of £6.1 billion in June.

On Wednesday, the July figures for retail sales are published. The consensus of market forecasts is for sales to have risen by 0.4 per cent in the month, giving a year-on-year rate of volume growth of 2.7 per cent, stronger than the 2.3 per cent rate recorded in June.

On Thursday, provisional second-quarter gross domestic product is expected to have been revised upwards to growth of 0.6 per cent from 0.5 per cent estimated in preliminary figures. This is largely because of an upward revision to industrial production. Growth of 0.6 per cent would nudge up the year-on-year growth rate to 2.7 per cent from 2.6 per cent earlier estimated. Figures for M4 money supply, including M4 lending, are expected to show that the trend of growth remains downward.

JANET BUSH

Table with columns: Bank, Buy, Sell, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA

Mandelson to woo union leaders at TUC

PETER MANDELSON, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has launched a charm offensive on the trade unions in an effort to bolster his support among the more traditional parts of the Labour Party. Next month he will cut short a government trip to South Africa to speak at the Trades Union Congress. He has also moved to reassure the Post Office's main union that he will not push through privatisation. He is thought to be anxious to dash speculation that the Post Office's public-sector status has been jeopardised by his arrival at the Department of Trade and Industry. Margaret Beckett, his predecessor, had promised only a video link. DTI sources say that Mr Mandelson is keen to nurture good relations with the unions to counter his image as one of the keenest pro-business advocates in the Government. Since his appointment, Mr Mandelson has held talks with John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, and other union leaders. Many believe that his moves will lead, ironically, to him presenting a more union-friendly image than his more left-wing predecessor as he has more to prove with the unions. Mr Mandelson's contact with the Communication Workers Union to offer reassurances over the Post Office's future has drawn a conciliatory response from Derek Hodgson, the general secretary. Mr Hodgson says in the latest edition of the union's magazine: "Peter is not the most popular man in the Labour Party, but no one denies his abilities and his intelligence. I hope our relationship will prove as positive and fruitful as that we enjoyed with his predecessors." At the Trades Union Congress Mr Mandelson, who will preside over the Fairness at Work White Paper becoming law, is likely to underline Labour's commitment to social partnership between employers and unions. In his charm offensive, Mr Mandelson will be going back to his roots. He used to work at the TUC as a policy adviser. At a meeting with Mr Monks and David Lea, TUC assistant general secretary, Mr Mandelson is said to have reminded his advisers that he used to do Mr Lea's filing.

BP seeks pay guidance after Amoco takeover

BRITISH PETROLEUM is turning to remuneration consultants to help to draw up new pay scales for senior management in the aftermath of its \$48 billion (£30 billion) takeover of Amoco, the US oil company. The result looks likely to be higher pay packages for those executives that survive the shake-out from the merger. Sir John Browne, BP's chief executive, is currently paid less than Larry Fuller, chief executive of Amoco, a less profitable company that will account for only 40 per cent of the merged group. Sir John earned £938,000 in 1997 in salary and annual bonus, while Mr Fuller's salary and bonus totalled £1.2 million last year. It has also emerged that Mr Fuller stands to receive an estimated \$25 million (£15 million) from his stock options as a result of the link-up with BP. The deal will trigger the "change of control" clause in Amoco's employment contracts, making all options exercisable immediately. Mr Fuller was already sitting on \$18.6 million of gains last December, and the BP offer will significantly boost this amount. BP has said senior staff may choose to transfer the options to cover shares in BP Amoco. The group also intends to put golden handcuffs on key Amoco employees in order to deter an exodus in the wake of last week's announcement. A spokesman for BP said there would be no immediate change to BP salaries as a result of the merger. He said that new arrangements might not be in place until 2000. The BP/Amoco deal has encouraged speculation that Elf



Sir John Browne of BP, left, earned less in salary and bonus than Larry Fuller of Amoco

Pfizer's UK labs find way from TCP to Viagra

Pfizer, the American company behind Viagra, came to Britain in 1991, initially to make the antibiotic penicillin. The company was attracted to the UK by the strength of British science. Penicillin, like Viagra, was a British discovery, and the universities were able to provide the PhDs Pfizer needed to staff its laboratories. It now employs 3,500 people at Sandwich in Kent, nearly half of them in research and development. In Glaxo Wellcome, Smith-Kline Beecham and Zenecca Britain has three of the 30 largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. Novartis of Switzerland has 3,000 UK employees and had sales last year of £650 million. The industry showed a trade surplus of £2.250 million in 1996 - second only to North Sea oil. Pfizer claims to be the biggest foreign investor in the UK after Ford, Motor Company, having invested £480 million since 1990. It plans to invest £350 million over the next three years. This commitment includes £100 million on a new research facility at Sandwich that will employ 650 scientists and support staff, and £50 million on a new corporate headquarters in Reigate that will create 700 jobs. Before Viagra, Pfizer was probably best known, if at all, for TCP, the liquid antiseptic. However, in sales terms TCP is trivial beside the group's real powerhouse in prescription pharmaceuticals. The Sandwich scientists developed three of the group's most successful products, Norvasc (or Istin) as it is known in the UK) and Cardura, both for high blood pressure, had sales worth £1.75 billion last year, while Diflucan for fungal diseases had sales of £540 million. These three drugs represent 40 per cent of Pfizer's total pharmaceutical sales. In an attempt to bolster its voice in the corridors of power, Pfizer has contracted accountants from KPMG to assess its contribution to the UK economy. The royalties on Norvasc, Cardura and Diflucan enabled the firm to make a £348-million contribution to the balance of payments last year from £475 million of exports. Pfizer Limited paid £82.5 million of tax on profits of £232.9 million last year. Using normal pharmaceutical industry multiples, a stand alone Pfizer UK would itself be large enough to join the FTSE 100, list of leading companies. Although Pfizer and Britain appear to have been good for one another, Simon Campbell, head of European R&D, has been critical of the Government's under-investment in science over the past 20 years. Before the recent £1 billion award to university science - largely funded by the Wellcome Foundation, the medical charity - Dr Campbell complained that government science spending had fallen by 28 per cent in the past decade. Ken Moran, the Australian chairman of Pfizer in the UK, says the quality of British doctoral research no longer matches the output from other parts of Europe. He says that, but for the scale of Pfizer's existing presence in the UK, the company may have chosen to site its new R&D facilities elsewhere.

PAUL DURMAN

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Do-it-yourself market faces shake-up

THE do-it-yourself market grew 10 per cent last year to £11.7 billion, but the sector is facing a dramatic slowdown in growth this year that could trigger a major shake-out in the sector, according to a report out today. A lot of the growth in the do-it-yourself and gardening sector is attributable to television programmes such as Ground Force, Home Front and Changing Rooms, according to Verdict, the retail consultancy. The report says that a lot of the spending comes from the affluent middle-aged who see do-it-yourself and gardening as hobbies. Verdict suggested that Boots's Do It All, the privately owned Focus and Great Mills, part of RMC, could come together to form a single group to compete with sector leaders B&Q and Sainsbury's Homebase. Focus is known to have been in talks with Boots about taking over Do It All. According to the report, B&Q has 17.5 per cent last year, Homebase 12.3 per cent (10.4 per cent), Wickes 5.2 per cent (4.9 per cent), Do It All 3.4 per cent (3.7 per cent), Focus 1.3 per cent (1.2 per cent) and Great Mills 2.8 per cent (2.7 per cent).

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THE FACTS

With its headquarters in London, HSBC Holdings is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. It has more than 5,500 offices in 79 countries. In 1997 the group earned pre-tax profits of £4.97 billion. Subsidiaries include Midland Bank in Britain and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Hong Kong. Its shares are listed in London and Hong Kong.

THE BOARD

The HSBC board is graced by executives from at least three continents. Recently elevated from chief executive to chairman, John Bond has spent most of his working life with the bank, joining Hongkong Bank in 1961. He is also a director of the London Stock Exchange and of Orange, the mobile telephone company. His successor as chief executive is Keith Whitson, who joined in the same year as Mr Bond. A director of Midland Bank since its takeover by HSBC in 1992, he was chief executive of the subsidiary from 1994 until March. The new head of Midland is Canadian Bill Dalton. Non-executive directors include representatives of John Swire & Son, the Hong Kong trading house. They are Baroness Dunn, who is also a director of Christie's International and General Electric Company, and Sir Adrian Swire, the group's honorary president. Lady Dunn is a former member of the Hong Kong executive council, where she is likely to have run into W. K. Fung, who, as well as sitting on the council, is a past chairman of Hong Kong's chamber of commerce. Also on the council was R. K. Ch'ien, chairman of Inchcape Pacific. Familiar British names include Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, British Airways chairman; Charles Miller Smith, chief executive of ICI; and Sir Brian Moffat, British Steel chairman and chief executive.

When Sir William Purves stepped down as group chairman of HSBC Holdings in May after 43 years with the bank, he warned his successors that he would be keeping a close eye on them. "I will remain a shareholder and I want them to work hard," he reportedly told a gathering of Chinese investors. It was typical of a man whose legacy is the creation of one of the world's biggest banks. HSBC is also one of the most international banks, with 5,500 offices in 79 countries and territories. In Britain it owns Midland Bank and James Capel, the investment manager and stockbroker. HSBC, known formerly as Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank, was founded in 1865 to provide trade finance to the international community in China by operating on sound "Scottish banking principles". Cadres of "officers" were recruited from English and Scottish banks, endowing Hongkong Bank — as it became known — with a culture more akin to the diplomatic service than the banking industry. The company still has a clear statement of group principles and values but Integrity Works, the consultant, reckons that this is now overly concise and the bank has not kept up with best practice. Much of Hongkong Bank's early years were spent establishing a presence in the Orient, building on its connections with Chinese government officials. It handled China's first public loan, helping to finance the building of railways and other infrastructure projects. The bank was also the first in Thailand, printing the country's banknotes. After the Second World War Hongkong Bank started looking beyond the Asia-Pacific region for expansion. In 1957 it bought The Mercantile Bank in India, followed two years later by the acquisition of The British Bank of the Middle East. Although Hongkong Bank had had offices on the West Coast of the US since its beginning, it did not achieve a substantial presence on the continent until 1980, with the acquisition of a controlling stake in Marine Midland Bank, a trade finance house based in Buffalo, New York State. Europe proved an even tougher nut to crack. In 1981 it launched a bid for Royal Bank of Scotland, which was subse-

CORPORATE PR



Banking on success: Keith Whitson and Douglas Flint, left, retain the HSBC strategy of making acquisitions when the markets are troubled; John Bond, centre, is group chairman; Sir William Purves keeps a close eye on performance; the company's Hong Kong office is flanked by skyscrapers

quently countered by Standard Chartered. Both offers were thrown out by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and in 1987 Hongkong Bank took a 14.9 per cent stake in Midland. As the bank's geographical scope widened, it was restructured and renamed HSBC Holdings in 1991. Sir William also listed the new group on both the London and Hong Kong stock exchanges. Then, finally, in 1992 it bought the over-extended Midland Bank for £3.9 billion. Much of this expansion was characterised by a prudence that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, would admire. Sir William's 1997 pay package came to £731,000, with share options lifting it to £1.1 million, but Crisp Consulting reckons this is about half what might be expected for someone of his experience in a FTSE 100 company. The bank's philosophy

has been to focus on value. Typically, HSBC would take a sizeable stake in a bank and intervene only when it ran into trouble. The acquisition of Midland epitomised this, making an offer when it was dragged down by an unwise foray into the US. Douglas Flint, group finance

director, says this remains the bank's expansion strategy. "If you look at our history, we make acquisitions when markets are troubled," he said, referring to the turmoil in the South-East Asian markets. Even though the troubles have nearly halved the HSBC Hold-

particular. Investors who want quick exposure to the region commonly buy HSBC. Conversely, when they want out, they sell HSBC. As a result, the bank does better than most in good times, but far worse in bad. Ironically, HSBC now derives only 41 per cent of its profits from the Asian side of its business. During the first half of 1998 Midland Bank contributed more to group profits than Hongkong Bank, making it the single biggest entity in the group for the first time. The Asia factor, however, will continue to depress its financial rating. On 1998 forecasts, HSBC stock trades on a price/earnings ratio of 12 times, compared with a sector mean of about 15, while Lloyds TSB is on a multiple of 20 plus. This rankles with the senior management of HSBC, where the asset base is almost double that of Lloyds TSB. Nevertheless, banking analysts remain fairly upbeat about HSBC's prospects over the longer term. With its long-standing presence in Asia and a capital base second to none, the bank is well-placed to benefit from any flight to quality by depositors, borrowers and investors. Its treasury operation will also profit from market turbulence. And thanks to strict credit controls, its lending exposure is confined mostly to blue chip companies. HSBC has rarely departed from the principles set down by its founder, Thomas Sutherland. They have stood it in good stead for the best part of 135 years, and its management sees no reason to jettison them just yet. Shareholders who stick with the company in spite of the collapse of its share price cannot plead that the bank's strategy was muddled.

RICHARD MILES

"The key [to profitability] will be Hong Kong, where credit deterioration has been visible but at a very manageable level. We still view the shares positively for long-term investors. The evident distress in the region could open up opportunities for acquisitions such as last year's assisted purchase in Brazil."
John Leonard, banking analyst, Salomon Smith Barney

"HSBC will probably batten down the hatches and try to pick up one of the ailing banks in the region, as it did with Banco Bamerindus in Brazil. The only danger is that the news gets worse over the next 12 to 18 months. The bank is so reliant on macro-economic factors. The big problem is Hong Kong, where the first signs of negative equity are emerging."
Rob Downe, banking analyst, ABN Amro

Ethical expression	5/10
Fast-cut quotient	9/10
Financial record	8/10
Share performance	5/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	7/10
Innovation	4/10
Annual report	8/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	8/10
Total	68/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by *Financial Week*. The fast-cut quotient, in which fast turnaround pay package scores highest, is provided by *Crab Consulting*.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

HONE YOUR BRAIN FOR THE MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

o coincide with the second Mind Sports Olympiad, *The Times* invites you to test your wits with our Mind Sports Challenge competition. Every day this week we will set puzzles based on games featured at the Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO) which runs from Monday August 24 to Sunday August 30 at the Novotel, Hammersmith, London W6. The MSO is unique and last year attracted 16 world champions, numerous brain stars and grandmasters and more than 2,000 competitors from 58 countries vying for gold, silver and bronze medals. With entry open to all and no barriers of geography, age, sex or physical ability, this year promises to be even bigger and better.

PRIZES:

Today there are two first prizes of a Hayes modern and three-month free trial of BT Wireplay, the UK's first dedicated direct dial-up multiplayer gaming service catering for mind gamers as well as action fans. The Hayes BT Internet kit offers dynamic Internet download capabilities and includes activities for the whole family. Wireplay supports more than 80 games, which means you can pit your wits against anyone, anytime, anywhere in the UK. To obtain the free software call 0800 800918 or visit the website at www.wireplay.com

By Raymond Keene

White: Judith Polgar to play. Black: Hansen. Played in Vejstrup, Denmark 1989. What is White's key winning move? Only the first move is required.

We have ten copies of *The Times Winning Moves 2* by Raymond Keene to give away as prizes. Call the hotline number below before midnight tonight with the answer to this chess challenge. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

● *MPs are challenging the government to recognise chess as a sport because it teaches children co-ordination, social and interactive skills.*

By David Pritchard

Above is a hand of rubber bridge. North-South are vulnerable and South is playing in a contract of spades. You are West. What is your best opening lead? (You cannot of course see the other hands, except for the dummy.) David Pritchard is former editor of *Games and Puzzles* magazine.

We have ten copies of *The Times Book of Bridge* by Robert Sheehan and *Basic Defence* by Freddie North to give away as prizes. Call our hotline number below before midnight tonight with your answer. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

WHAT'S ON AT MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

This year's expanded list of 40 thinking games in the larger venue includes: chess, draughts, the Oriental games of go and shogi, speed reading, IQ, poker, memory and creativity.

- There are also the ultimate challenges of the Pentamind and the Decamentathlon, which tests five or ten different mental skills.
- The finals of *The Times* Crossword Championship will also be held.
- The English Bridge Union (EBU) will be holding a teach-in at the MSO every day from 10am. There are nine different bridge tournaments, spread throughout the week as well as four mini-bridge sessions.
- Spectators can buy tickets on the door from 10am-8pm daily, £2 per day or £5 for the week, which gives access to any lectures or teach-ins in progress.

If you want to take part as a competitor, call 01707 659080. Full details are on MSO website www.mindsports.co.uk

Channel 4 is screening a series of programmes this week at 7.55pm. Topics include memory, IQ, creativity, the Afro-Caribbean game of oware and chess.

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CHANGING TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY AUGUST 17 1998

Church raises doubts over GEC's defence vision

By ADAM JONES AND RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Church of England may flex its muscles at the GEC annual meeting next month to try to steer the electronics group away from becoming too dependent on defence sales.

The Church has held shares in GEC for decades. At the end of last year, its holding was worth £16 mil-

lion, part of an equity portfolio worth £2.3 billion.

While it believes the defence of the realm and sales to other Nato countries are acceptable, it is worried that imminent mergers with other defence groups in Europe may radically change GEC's focus and its sales policies overseas.

Last year, the Church Commissioners, who have traditionally favoured behind-the-scenes diplom-

cy, took the radical step of publicly questioning GEC board members at the annual meeting.

They demanded to know how much GEC had sold to the Indonesian Government over the previous two years. They were told that £20 million of commercial and military equipment had been sold, including naval training and simulation equipment.

They also asked how much of the

£2.4 billion defence turnover came from weaponry and were told 10 per cent.

The Commissioners are now considering what to do at the forthcoming annual meeting on September 4, amid rising concern that GEC's long-term strategy will be focused more closely on defence. It recently bought Tracor, a US defence electronics group, and is poised to take an active part in the wave of merg-

ers that is starting to sweep the European defence industry.

Arun Kataria of the Church Commissioners said: "The proportion of GEC business that is now in defence equipment is really quite close to the point at which we feel quite uncomfortable."

He said: "If we disinvest, we lose influence." The Church has taken heart from the decision of Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, the GEC

managing director, to buy out Siemens' stake in the GPT telecommunications joint venture. GPT's projects, which include laying cables alongside the UK canals network, pose less of an ethical question.

Investment in defence is not the only area causing concern within the Church. At a fringe meeting at the recent General Synod, concerns were raised by a bishop about in-

vestment in the financial sector. It was claimed at the meeting that one company in the Church's portfolio charges "usurious interest rates". The bishop said: "It would be a very cruel environment if we were in the business of making a lot of money out of a company that we spent a lot of time telling people to avoid. A real examination of the financial sector is going to be imperative."

UK to earn £100m from Viagra sales

By PAUL DURMAN

THE Government is set to earn £100 million a year in tax revenues from the worldwide sales of Viagra, the impotence treatment developed in the Kent laboratories of Pfizer, the American pharmaceuticals company.

As the drug was a British discovery, the patent for Viagra is held by Pfizer Limited in the UK, which will receive a royalty of about 10 per cent on all sales. With sales forecast to reach \$5 billion (£3 billion), Pfizer Limited's income from the blue pills could incur an annual tax charge of £108 million, based on the same 35 per cent tax rate it paid last year.

The tax income from Viagra will offset the cost of the drug to the National Health Service, which doctors at last month's meeting of the British Medical Association suggested could be £1 billion or more.

This would impose an unbearable strain on the total NHS drugs budget of £5.5 billion. The widely publicised estimate has prompted calls for Viagra to be rationed, making it available only through consultants and urologists.

Pfizer is privately alarmed by the £1 billion estimate, which it claims is massively

too high. In lobbying the Department of Health and the drug-pricing authorities, the company is arguing that demand will turn out to be much more modest - partly because of the conservatism towards new drugs among the patient population in Britain, and the continuing reluctance of men to admit to having impotence.

It is believed that only a handful of existing drugs cost the NHS as much as £100 million. Glaxo Wellcome's Imitran for migraine is believed to claim the biggest slice of the cake, but its UK sales are only about £200 million.

Tight controls on Viagra's availability on the NHS will encourage GPs to offer the drug on private prescription, requiring patients to pay perhaps £5 a pill. Pfizer is sponsoring a new course to teach doctors how to diagnose and treat impotence, and to identify genuine sufferers.

It is already possible for patients to ask their doctors for private prescriptions for medicines not readily available on the NHS. However, government endorsement of such an approach to offset the cost of Viagra is likely to lead to accusations that it is fostering a

two-tier health service. Doctors are concerned that the publicity surrounding Viagra will encourage many men to take Viagra to improve their sexual performance. Despite widespread enthusiastic reports from healthy users, Pfizer insists there is no evidence to suggest the drug offers any benefit to "normals", and that it is not an aphrodisiac.

Viagra is expected to receive its UK licence within the next month or two. Already the fastest-selling drug ever launched in the US, the pill is also readily available over the Internet.

On current estimates, Viagra sales will reach \$1.5 billion in 1999, its first full year in most major markets. That will generate an estimated £100 million of royalties for Pfizer in the UK, and produce perhaps £30 million in tax for the Inland Revenue. It will take another few years for the drug to reach its peak sales. More conservative estimates of sales and Pfizer's tax liability still suggest annual tax revenues of more than £50 million.

Separately, it has emerged that Pfizer has been approached to sponsor an exhibition within the "Body Zone" - the androgynous figure that is the centrepiece of the Millennium exhibition at Greenwich.



The Pfizer site at Sandwich in Kent, which developed Viagra, is to have a new research and development facility at a cost of £109 million

Nomura expected to grasp Thistle

By ADAM JONES

NOMURA International, the Japanese securities house, is expected to win the auction for Thistle Hotels, having tabled a bid thought to be £1.5 billion.

Speculation at the weekend suggested that Nomura has

emerged from a shortlist of five as the preferred bidder.

Thistle, which has 91 hotels, is 46 per cent owned by Brikerley Investments. Nomura's diverse investments in this country have included the William Hill chain of betting shops, pubs, the Angel Trains leasing

company and Thorn, the television rentals group.

Patriot American, the US property investment trust, and Accor, the French hotel group, were among those companies said to be competing for Thistle, whose prime sites include the Tower Thistle hotel, next to

Tower Bridge in London. Some suitors had wanted to buy only parts of the group, with Stakis, the Glasgow hotel and casino operator, thought to be among these partial bidders.

Thistle is being advised by Greenhill, the US mergers and acquisitions specialist.

Thistle announced in June that it had received approaches from third parties that might lead to a bid for the company. Since then, the value of the hotel group's shares has fallen from 250p to 213p, valuing the group at just over £1.3 billion.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1486

ACROSS

- 1 Abstemious, sparing (6)
- 2 Pig flesh (4)
- 3 Container; sounds like wan (4)
- 4 Unbalanced (3-5)
- 5 Individual; extraordinary (8)
- 6 Colleague (4)
- 7 To slow (development) (6)
- 8 (Old LP) needle (6)
- 9 Quick; held immobile (4)
- 10 Touring performance (esp. pop) (8)
- 11 Irish town; type of verse (6)
- 12 Irregular reading: spot on screen (4)
- 13 Non-permanent secretary (4)
- 14 Royal seat (6)

DOWN

- 1 Bring to fruition (7)
- 2 Soviet labour camp system (5)
- 3 Dickens's eponymous Amy (6,6)
- 4 (Session) of all members (7)
- 5 Competitor; be as good as (5)
- 6 Man's (tweed) coat (6,6)
- 7 Belgian province; Scheidt port (7)
- 8 Impractically ideal (7)
- 9 Nimble (5)
- 10 Dull; sedate; unflamboyant (9)

Pay deals higher again, says CBI

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

PAY settlements in British manufacturing industry edged up in the three months to July, according to the latest figures from the Confederation of British Industry, which will disappoint those in the markets who believe base rates have peaked.

The CBI's Pay Databank Survey showed that pay settlements averaged 3.7 per cent in the three months to July, compared with 3.6 per cent in the three months to April and 3.1 per cent a year ago.

Although the increase is marginal, it is still in contrast to figures released last week, showing average earnings growth in manufacturing and services falling to 5 per cent in the April to June period from 5.4 per cent in March to May, suggest-

ing that earnings growth was now on a downward trend.

The Bank of England called last week's figures a step in the right direction and said that the Monetary Policy Committee would undoubtedly welcome them. Gilf yields fell after the average earnings news to their lowest level since the 1960s on the presumption that interest rates have now peaked.

Separate figures from Industrial Relations Services suggest that pay inflation has been steady in recent months. Its measure of manufacturing settlements, which is unweighted, is 3.5 per cent in the three months to June, unchanged from the figure recorded for the three months to May and the three months to April.

MPs likely to criticise Biotech

THE directors of British Biotech are expected to come in for criticism today when a committee of MPs reports on the recent controversy at the drug development company (Paul Durman writes).

The Science and Technology Select Committee heard evidence that internal battles formed the backdrop to allegations that Biotech misled investors on the progress of drug trials. The chairman called his senior scientist ill-informed, directors fought to restrain the "arrogant optimism" of Keith McCullagh, chief executive, and the company issued encouraging statements even though it knew it had problems with regulators.

Although Biotech claims to have refuted the allegations, its share price collapsed.

Flextech's Luard dies

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

ROGER LUARD, chief executive of Flextech, and the moving light behind the former oil services groups' move into cable and satellite television programming, died at the weekend at the age of 49.

He had been suffering from a rare, untreatable neurological virus. In May, in a hint of what was to come, Flextech announced that Mr Luard was on sick leave and that the board had agreed to offer him a financial package of £3.5 million if he was unable to return to work by the end of the year or had little hope of doing so.

The former Price Waterhouse accountant died on Saturday morning. In Flextech, he had spotted the importance of building up a roster of "ba-



Luard: led move into satellite

sic" cable and satellite channels, such as Living and Bravo.

His final, and perhaps his most important, business achievement was to negotiate a joint venture deal with the BBC in which Flextech is fund-

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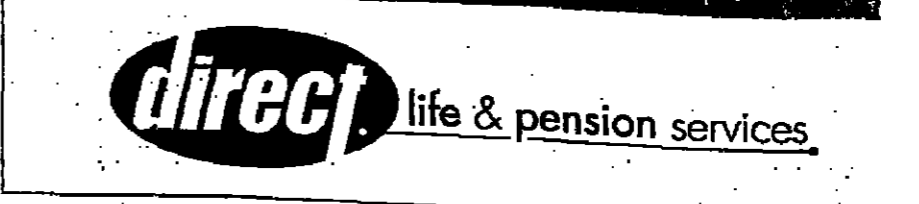
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